

ORDINANCE No.

118724

COUNCIL BILL No.

111869

AN ORDINANCE relating to parks and recreation and animal control; amending Sections 9.25.084 and 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code to allow off leash dogs in specified areas.

OK

COMPTROLLER FILE No.

Introduced:	SEP - 8 1997	By:	DRAGO
Referred:		To:	Business, Economic & Community Development Committee
Referred:		To:	
Referred:		To:	
Reported:	9-22-97	Second Reading:	
Third Reading:	9-22-97	Signed:	9-22-97
Presented to Mayor:	9-22-97	Approved:	SEP 28 1997
Returned to City Clerk:	SEP 29 1997	Published:	Full 7pg.
Vetoed by Mayor:		Veto Published:	
Passed over Veto:		Veto Sustained:	

The City of Seattle

Honorable President:

Your Committee on

Business

to which was referred the within Council Bill report that we have considered the same and

M/S/P, 2-0, 9/

9-22-97 Full Council Action

*Law Department*

**The City of Seattle--Legislative Department**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

Date Reported  
and Adopted

Honorable President

Your Committee on Business, Economic and Community Development

to which was referred the within Council Bill No. 111869  
report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that the same:

M/S/P, <sup>as amended</sup> 2-0, 9/16/97.

9-22-97 Full Council Action:

Committee Chair

RECEIVED OMP  
JUN 13 1987

### CHECK OFF LIST

Exhibit H to Ordinance 118099

Because an appeal has been filed, Section 2 and the Pilot Program remain in effect until the DNS (Determination of Non-Significance) has been filed with the Clerk, OR, if an EIS report is required, then Section 2 remains in effect for 60 days after report is issued.

If an EIS is required, then Section 3 is moot.

Nothing changes with regard to the pilot program until there is a decision on the appeal. If the decision is positive (there ARE environmental concerns), then an EIS will be required and the pilot remains in place for the 60 days following issuance of the EIS. If the appeal decision is negative (there are NO environmental concerns), then Section 3 becomes effective and some of the off-leash areas are changed at that time.

- o Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 N, may not be used until Superintendent file with City Clerk a Stewardship Agreement and signs are installed.
- o City Right a Way #2 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 O, may not be used until Superintendent file with City Clerk a Stewardship Agreement and signs are installed.
- o City Right a Way #3 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 P, may not be used until Superintendent file with City Clerk a Stewardship Agreement and signs are installed.
- o East Duwamish Greenbelt depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 Q, may not be used until Superintendent file with City Clerk a Stewardship Agreement and signs are installed.
- o Northacres Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 R, may not be used until Superintendent file with City Clerk a Stewardship Agreement and signs are installed.
- o Jefferson Park Reservoir depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 S, may not be used until Superintendent file with City Clerk a Stewardship Agreement and signs are installed.

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE  
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.



ORDINANCE 118724

AN ORDINANCE relating to parks and recreation and animal control; amending Sections 9.25.084 and 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code to allow off leash dogs in specified areas.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection A of Section 9.54.084 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which Section was last amended by Ordinance 116694, is further amended as follows:

**Section 9.25.084 Offenses relating to control.**

It is unlawful for the owner to:

A. Permit any potbelly pig, domestic animal, except cats and pigeons, to be at large or trespass upon the property of another; provided, that pets may be removed from the premises of the owner if restrained by a leash that is eight (8) feet or shorter, and if in the physical control of a person. It is not a violation of this subsection to have a dog off-leash in an area designated pursuant to Section 18.12.080 as an off-leash area provided that the requirements of subsection 18.12.080 B. are met.

Section 2. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638, is further amended as follows:

**Section 18.12.080 Animals running at large prohibited.**

Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond, fountain, stream, organized athletics area, or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the same may be a nuisance.

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1       B. A pilot off-leash program shall be established under the administration of Seattle Animal  
2 Control, a subdivision of the Department of the Executive Services Department (Exhibit H, attached to  
3 Ordinance 118099 and on file in the city clerk's office). Given that the City's determination of  
4 nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent Dog Off-Leash Exercise Area has been  
5 appealed, the pilot off-leash program shall continue in effect for a period ending on the date a decision  
6 affirming the DNS is filed with the City Clerk or, in the alternative, for a period ending sixty (60) days after  
7 a final environmental impact statement (EIS) is issued, Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the  
8 following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas:

- 9       1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 A;
- 10       2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 B;
- 11       3. That portion of Lower Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 C;
- 12       4. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 D;
- 13       5. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 E;
- 14       6. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 F; and
- 15       7. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as  
16       depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 G.

17       Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by means of  
18 an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice control over the dog  
19 at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be licensed and must display valid  
20 license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are  
21 not permitted to use the off-leash areas.  
22  
23  
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1 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any park  
2 shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing feces, and  
3 shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

4 D. The Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under  
5 subsection B on a temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved  
6 jointly by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Seattle Animal Control and if the Superintendent  
7 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
8 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
9 Director of the Executive Services Department. The Superintendent shall state in writing his other reasons  
10 for closure.

11 Section 3. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638, is  
12 further amended as follows:

13 **Section 18.12.080 Animals running at large prohibited.**

14 Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit  
15 any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash,  
16 except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and under control  
17 of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond, fountain, stream,  
18 organized athletics area or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may ban dogs and other  
19 pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the same may be a  
20 nuisance.

21 B. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash  
22 areas:  
23  
24

1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 H;
2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 I;
3. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 J until title to that portion of the Navy property at Sand Point intended for Parks and Recreation purposes is transferred to the City and the Use Plan for that portion of the property has been completed and adopted;
4. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 K will be extended until October 25, 1998, or until another site on Capitol Hill is secured and opened. No later than March 15, 1998, the Department of Parks and Recreation, following consultation with the Office of Management and Planning and COLA, shall submit at least three alternative sites (one of which may include rotation of the Volunteer Park area) to the Council for consideration as a replacement for the Volunteer Park site. After appropriate public hearings and review, the Council will make a final decision on a Capitol Hill site no later than July 30, 1998.
5. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 L
6. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 M;
7. That portion of Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 N; provided that this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;
8. That portion of City Light Right of Way #2 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 O; provided that this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;



1 9. That portion of City Light Right of Way #3 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 P; provided that this  
2 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
3 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

4 10. That portion of the East Duwamish Greenbelt depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 Q; provided that  
5 this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
6 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

7 11. That portion of Northacres Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 R; provided that this site may  
8 not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship agreement  
9 concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

10 12. That portion of Jefferson Park Reservoir depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 S; provided that this  
11 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
12 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed

13 It is the intention of the City Council that only ONE of the sites on North Beacon Hill, either City  
14 Light Right of Way # 2 (# 8 above), East Duwamish Greenbelt (# 10 above), or Jefferson Park Reservoir (#  
15 12 above) be developed as an off-leash site at this time and that the site selected be used as an off-leash area  
16 only after an appropriate neighborhood process has taken place, a local "stewardship" group has been  
17 formed under the auspices of COLA or another appropriate group, and an agreement signed.

18 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by means of  
19 an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice control over the dog  
20 at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be licensed and must display valid  
21 license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are  
22 not permitted to use the off-leash areas.  
23  
24

1 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any park  
2 shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing feces, and  
3 shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

4 D. The Superintendent shall review the impacts of off-leash activities at sites seven (7) through  
5 twelve (12) after 18 months of operations at each site. In the case of non-park sites, this review shall include  
6 consultation with the City Department with authority over the site. If, based on this review, the  
7 Superintendent finds significant problems that can not be practically corrected, the Superintendent may  
8 close the site to off-leash use. In addition to any action taken pursuant to the review described above, the  
9 Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under subsection B on a  
10 temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved jointly by the  
11 Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Animal Control, and COLA, and if the Superintendent  
12 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
13 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
14 Director of the Executive Services Department. The Superintendent shall state in writing his other reasons  
15 for closure.

16 Prior to any permanent closure, the Superintendent shall give thirty (30) days written notice, to be  
17 posted at the site, stating the reason(s) for the closure and shall conduct one or more public hearings on the  
18 proposed closure.

19 Moreover, the Superintendent is authorized to manage all off-leash sites and this authority shall  
20 include, but not be limited to, the authority to make minor alterations to site boundaries after reasonable  
21 notice to the public, impose operating hours and curtail use at sites as necessary for renovation, repair or  
22 for other operational reasons.  
23  
24

1 Section 4. Use, prior to the effective date of this ordinance, of any off-leash area in a manner that  
2 was lawful prior to September 22, 1997 is hereby ratified and confirmed.

3 Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval  
4 by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall  
5 take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020. Provided, however, that, given that the City's  
6 determination of nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent Dog Off-Leash Exercise  
7 Area has been appealed, then Section 3 above shall not take effect until the date a decision regarding the DNS  
8 is filed with the City Clerk. Provided further, that in the event that any appeal of the DNS results in a  
9 requirement that an environmental impact statement (EIS) be prepared, then Section 3 above shall not take  
10 effect.

11 Passed by the City Council the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 1997, and signed by me in open session in  
12 authentication of its passage this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1997.

13 *James J. [Signature]*  
14 President of the City Council

15 Approved by me this 30 day of September, 1997.

16 *Norman B. Rice*  
17 Mayor

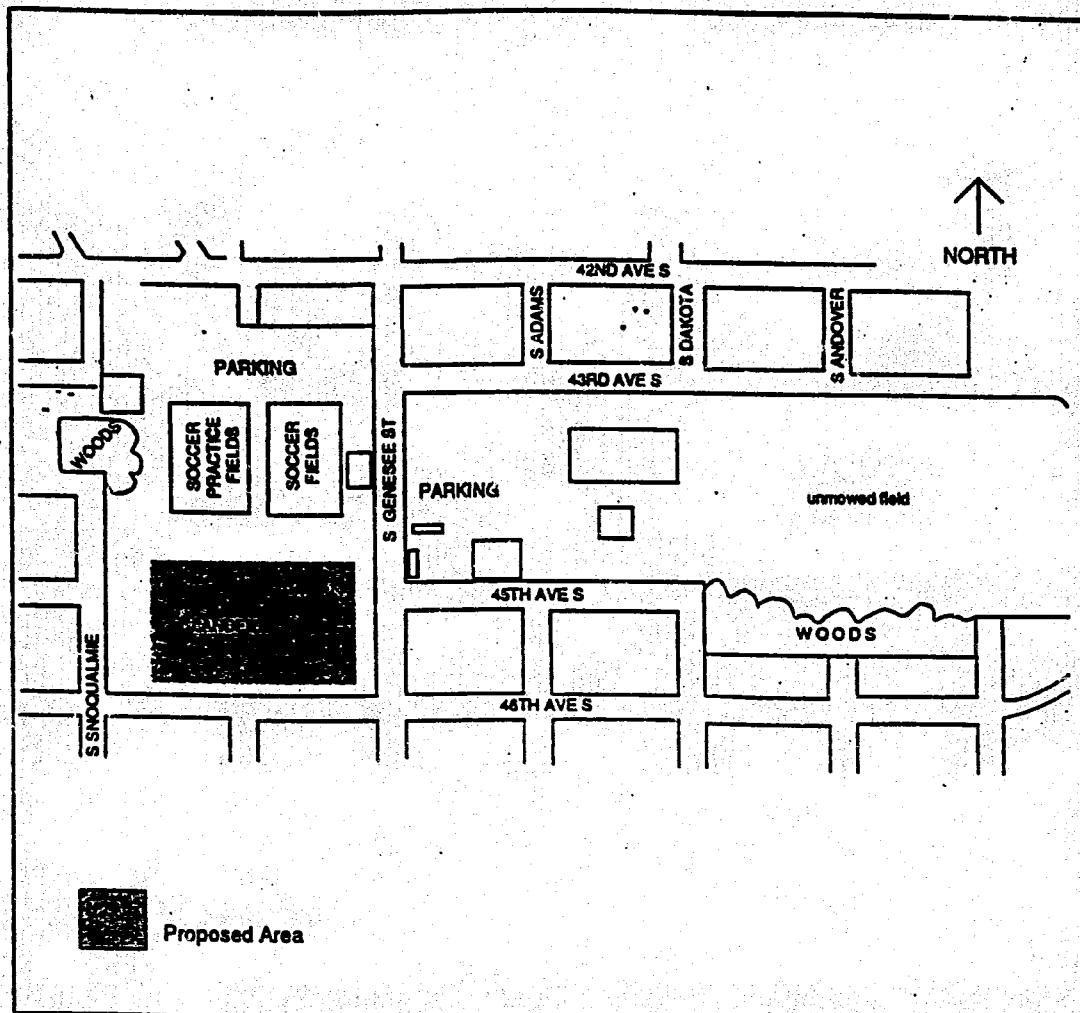
18 Filed by me this 30 day of September, 1997.

19 *Judith E. Pappini*  
20 City Clerk

21 (Seal)

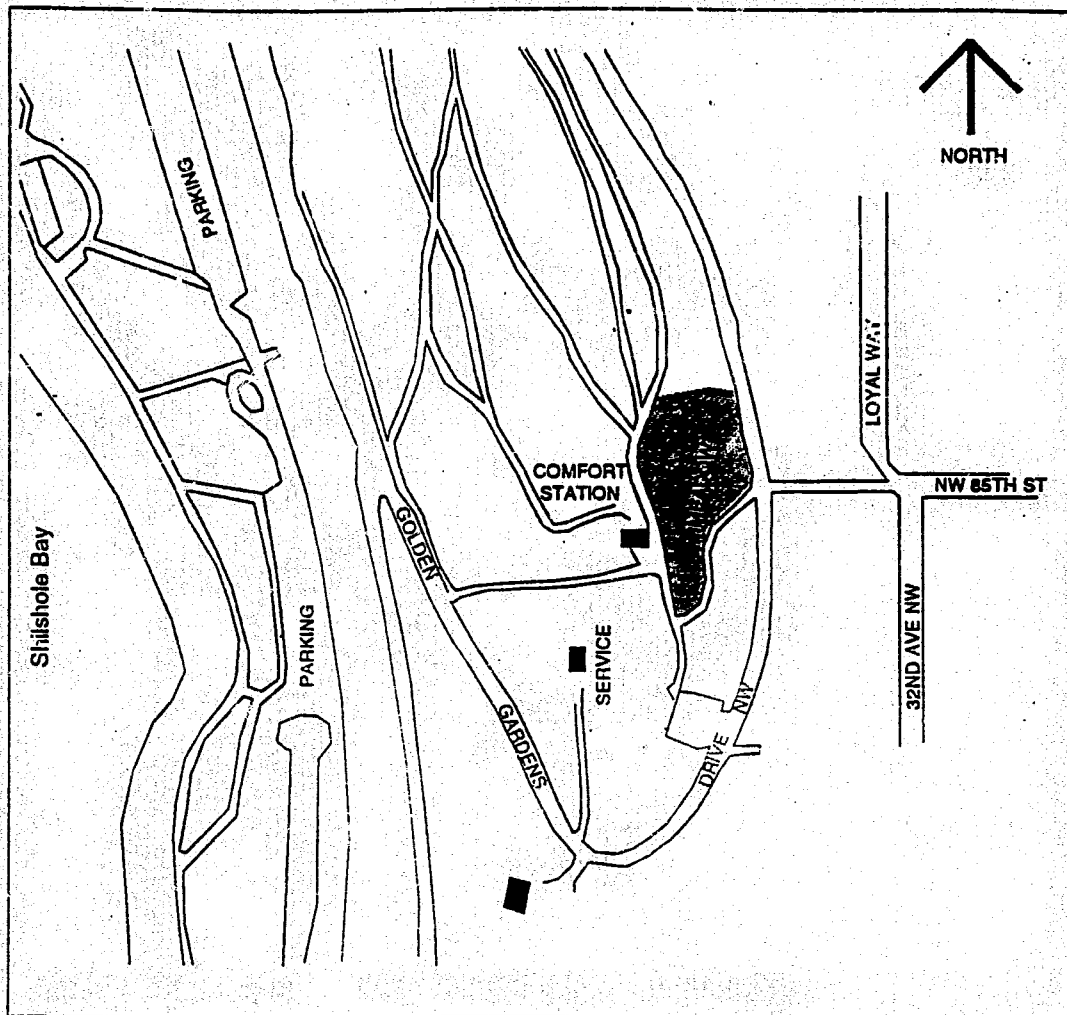


## GENESEE PARK



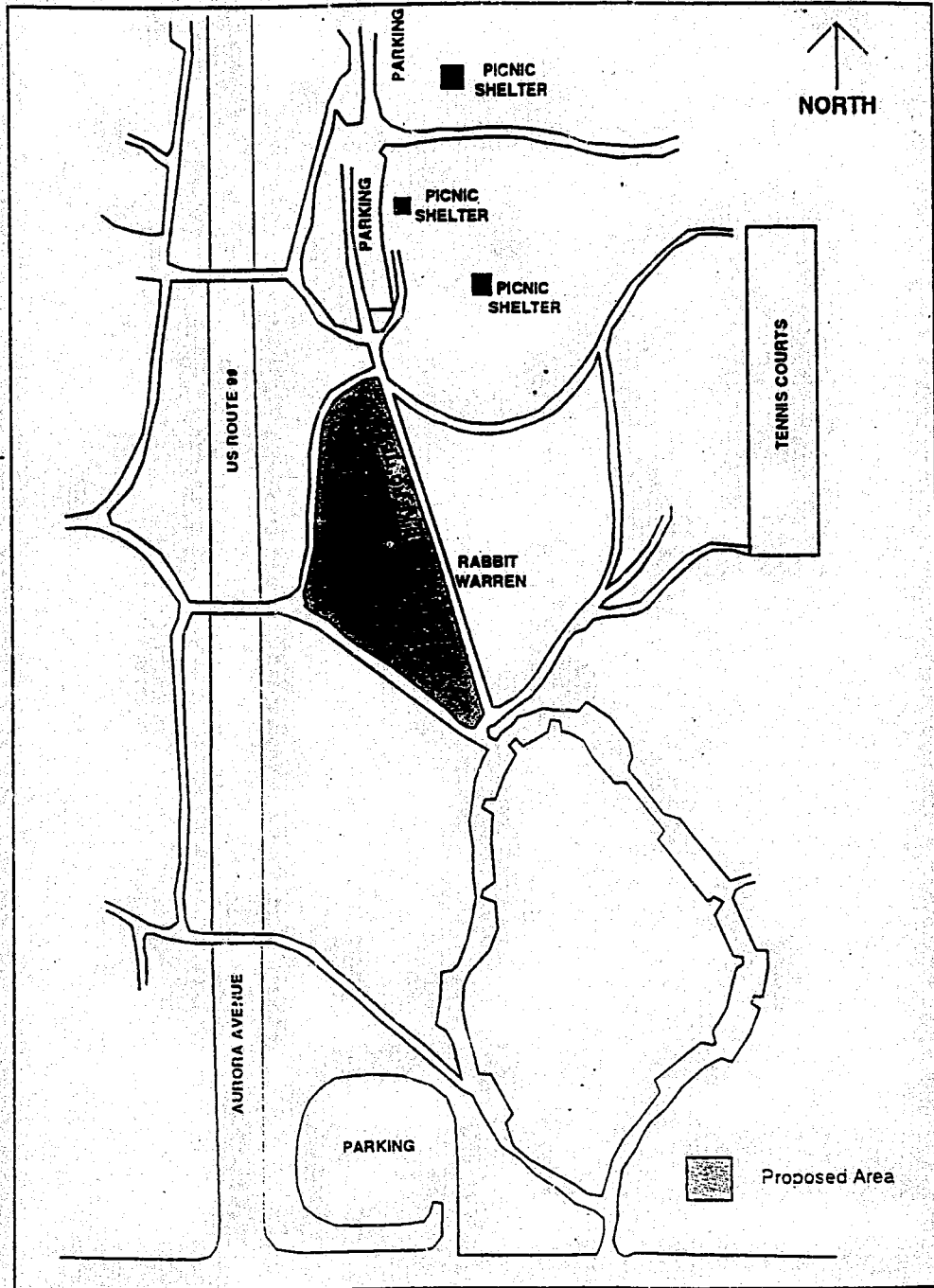
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## GOLDEN GARDENS PARK



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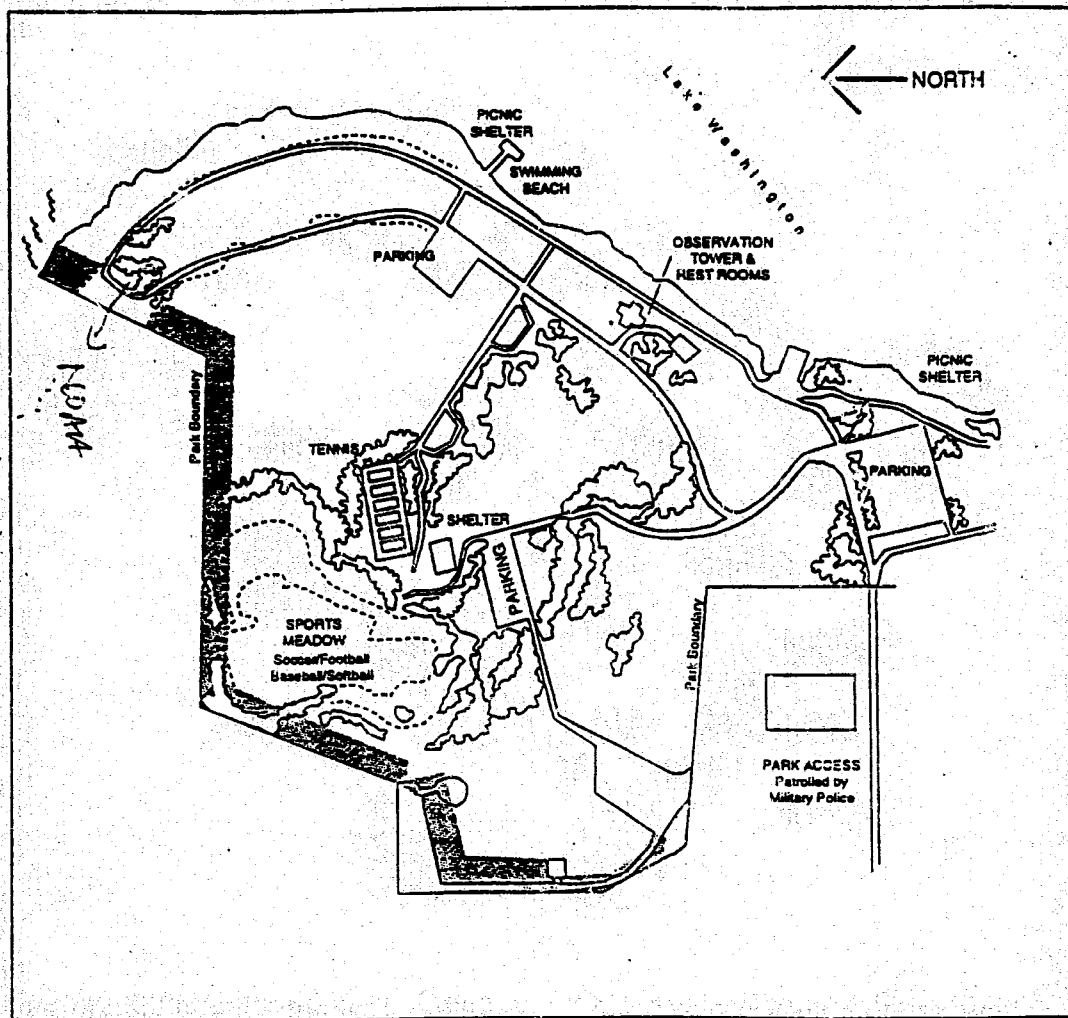
# WOODLAND PARK



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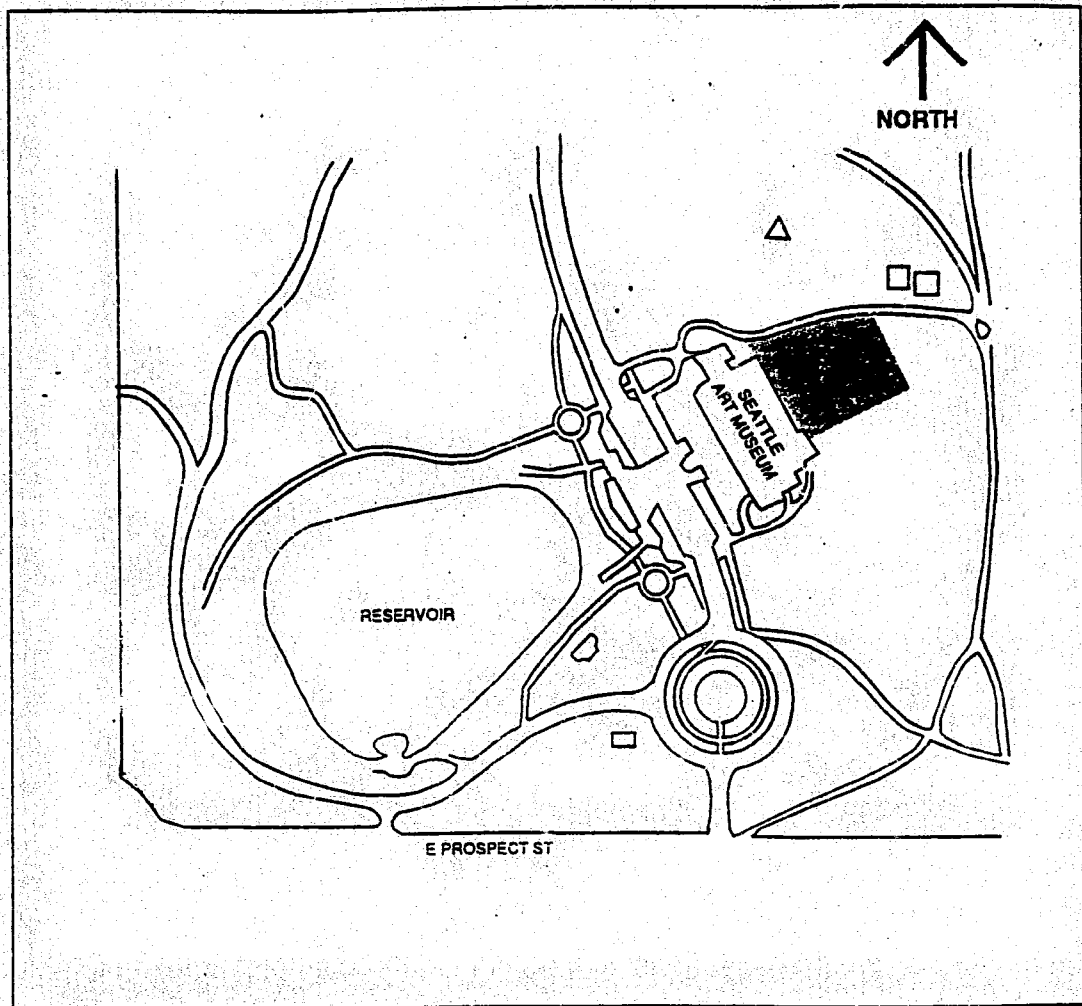


## WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK



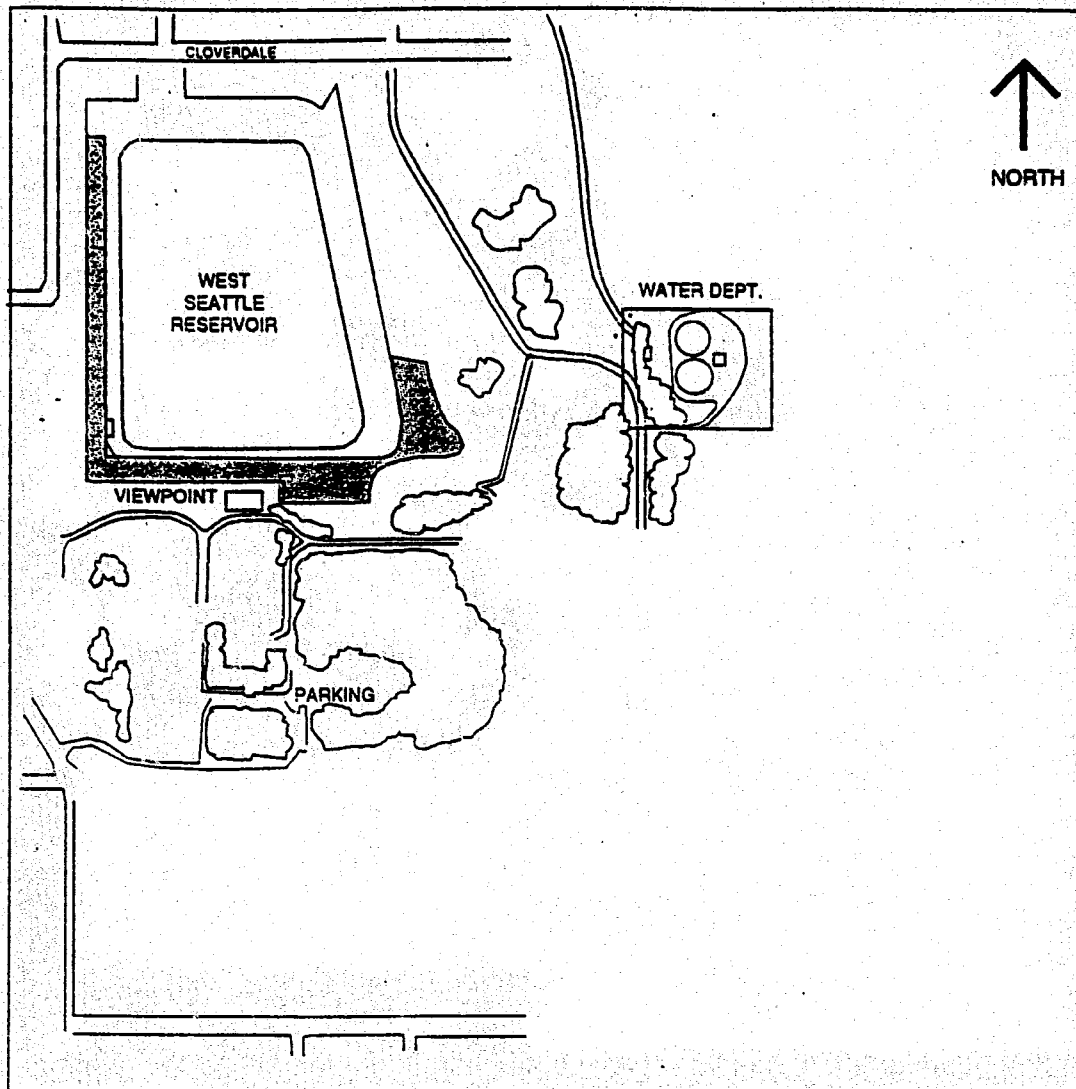
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## VOLUNTEER PARK



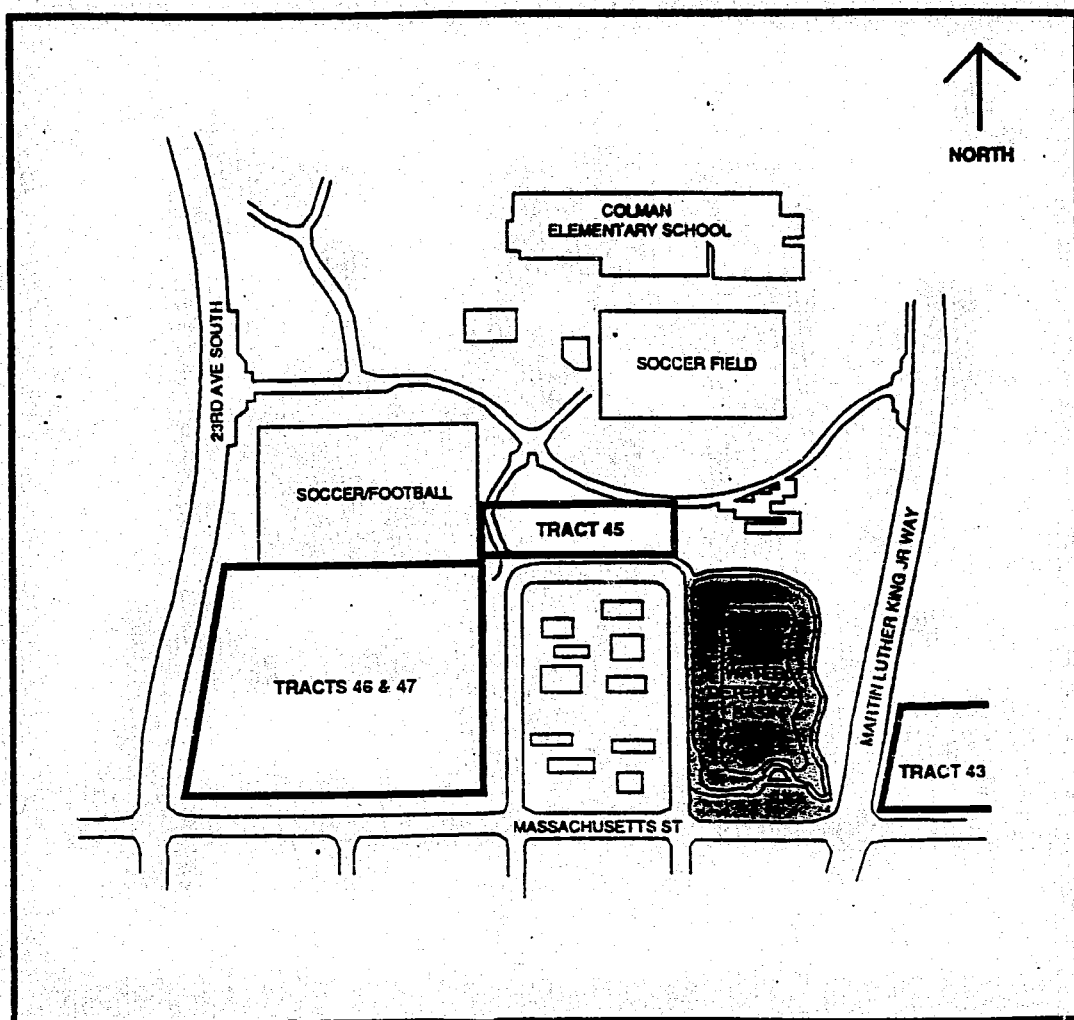
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## WESTCREST PARK



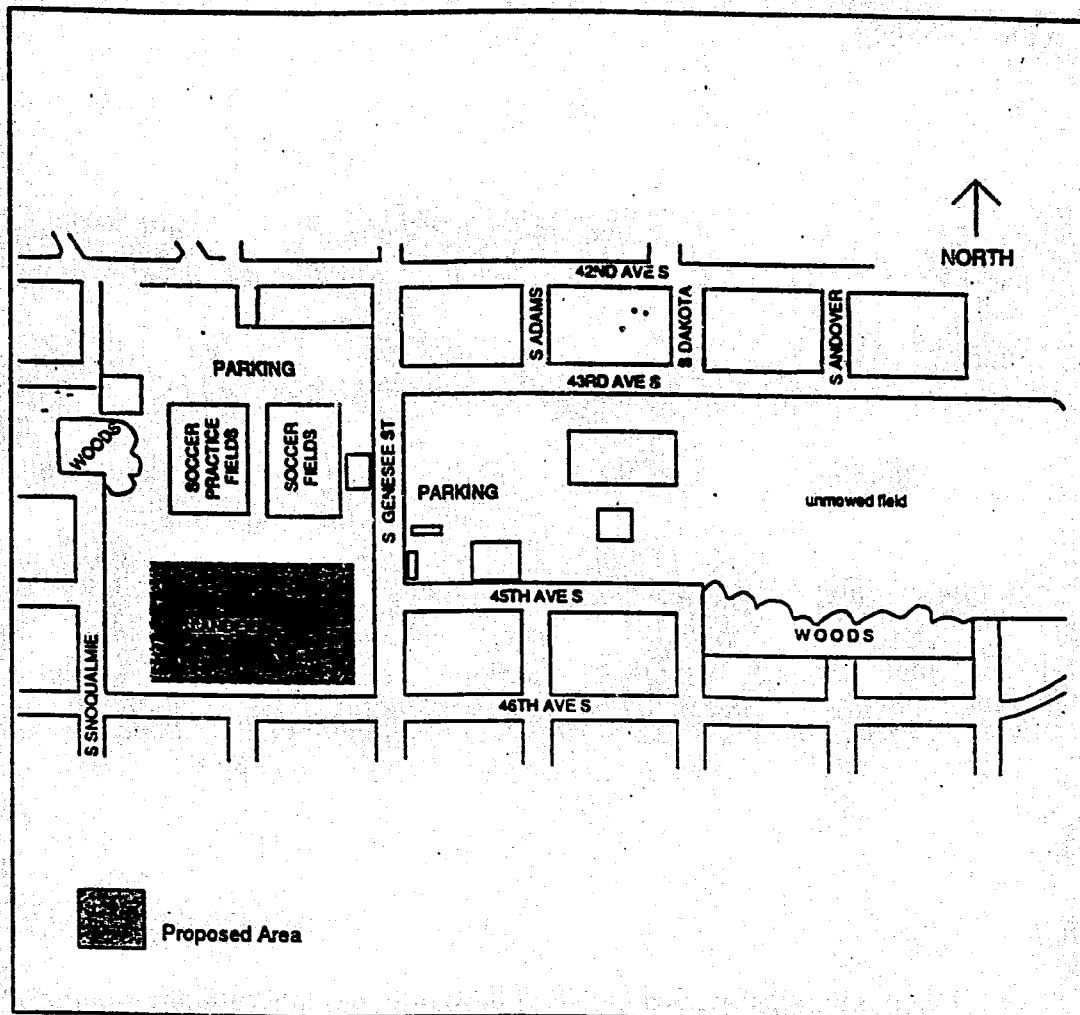


## I-90 "BLUE DOG POND"

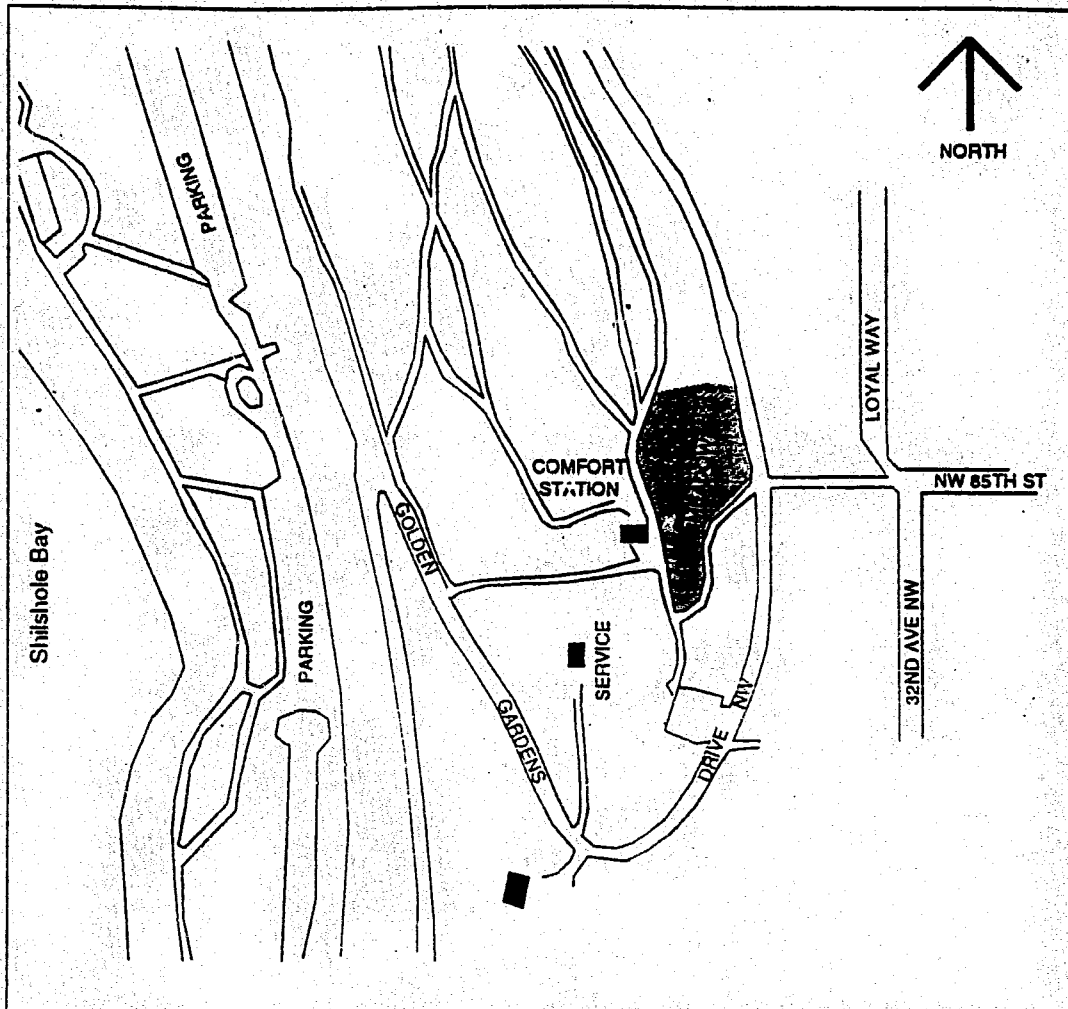


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# GENESEE PARK

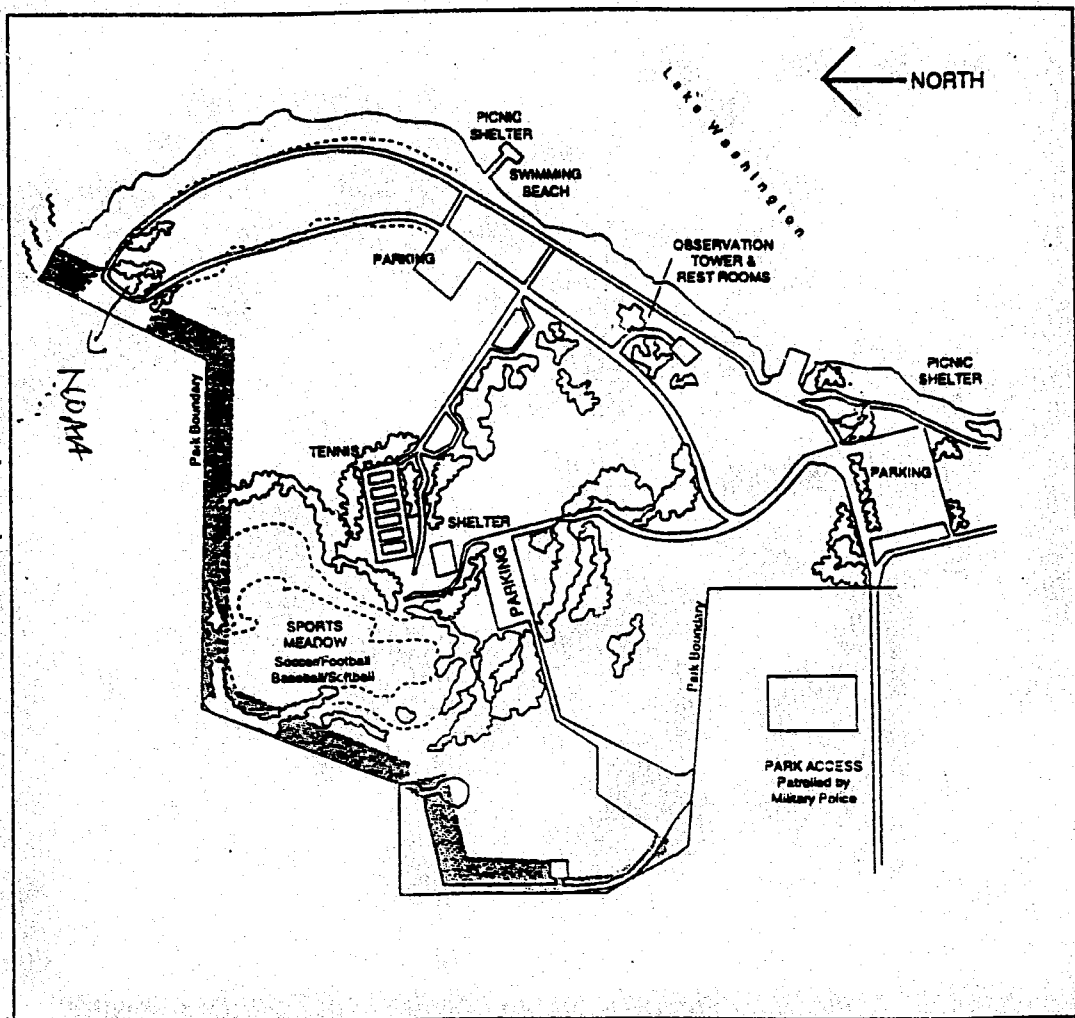


## GOLDEN GARDENS PARK



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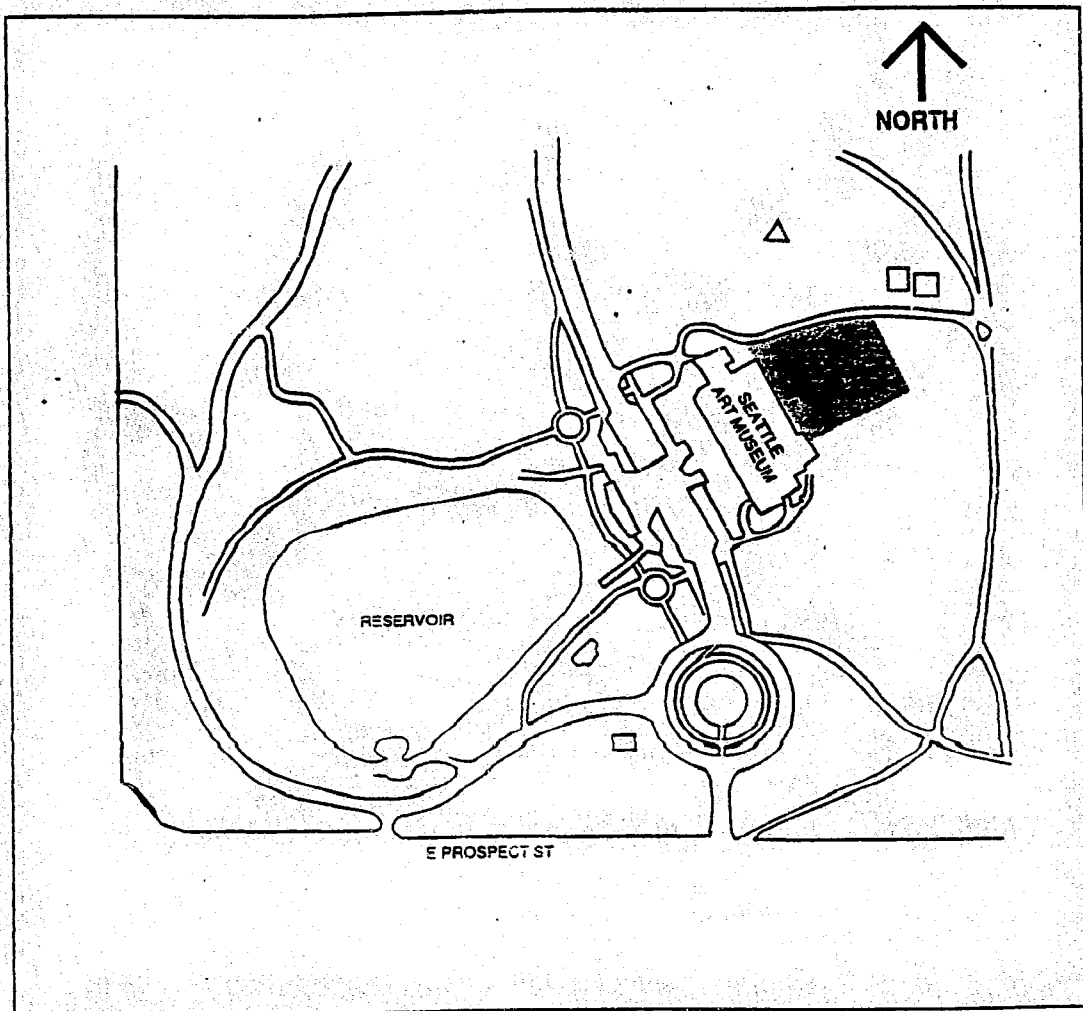
## WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK



NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE  
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Exhibit 10.12.080 K

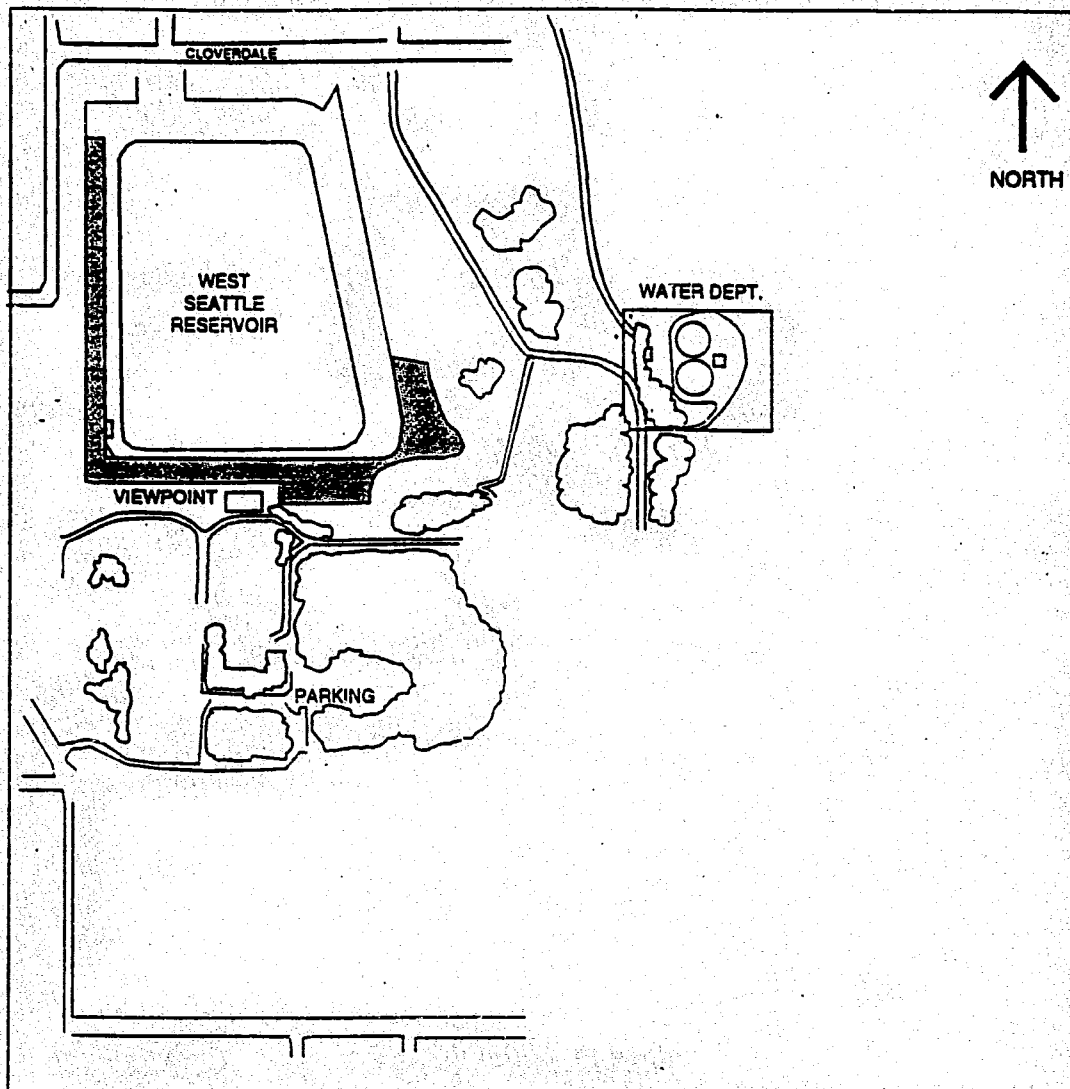
## VOLUNTEER PARK



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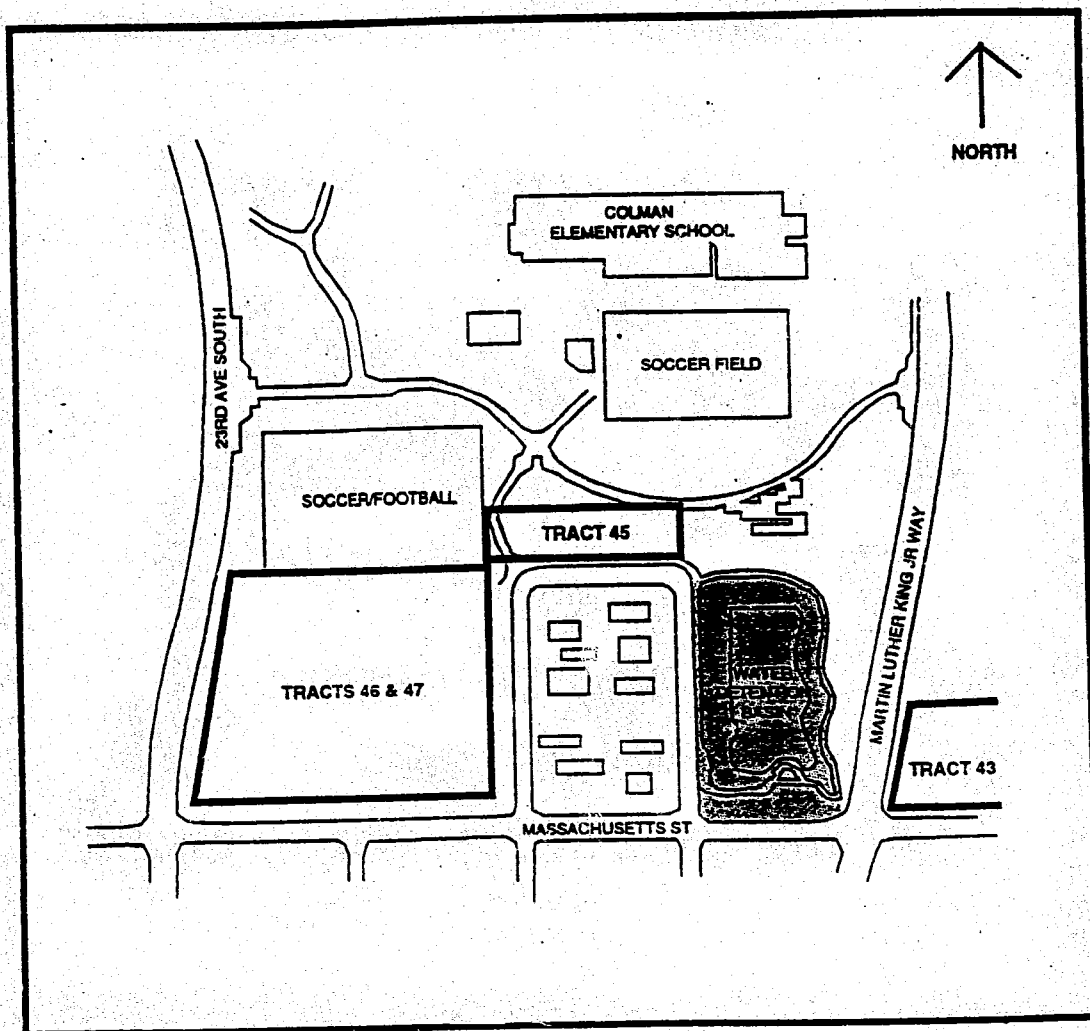


## WESTCREST PARK



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## I-90 "BLUE DOG POND"

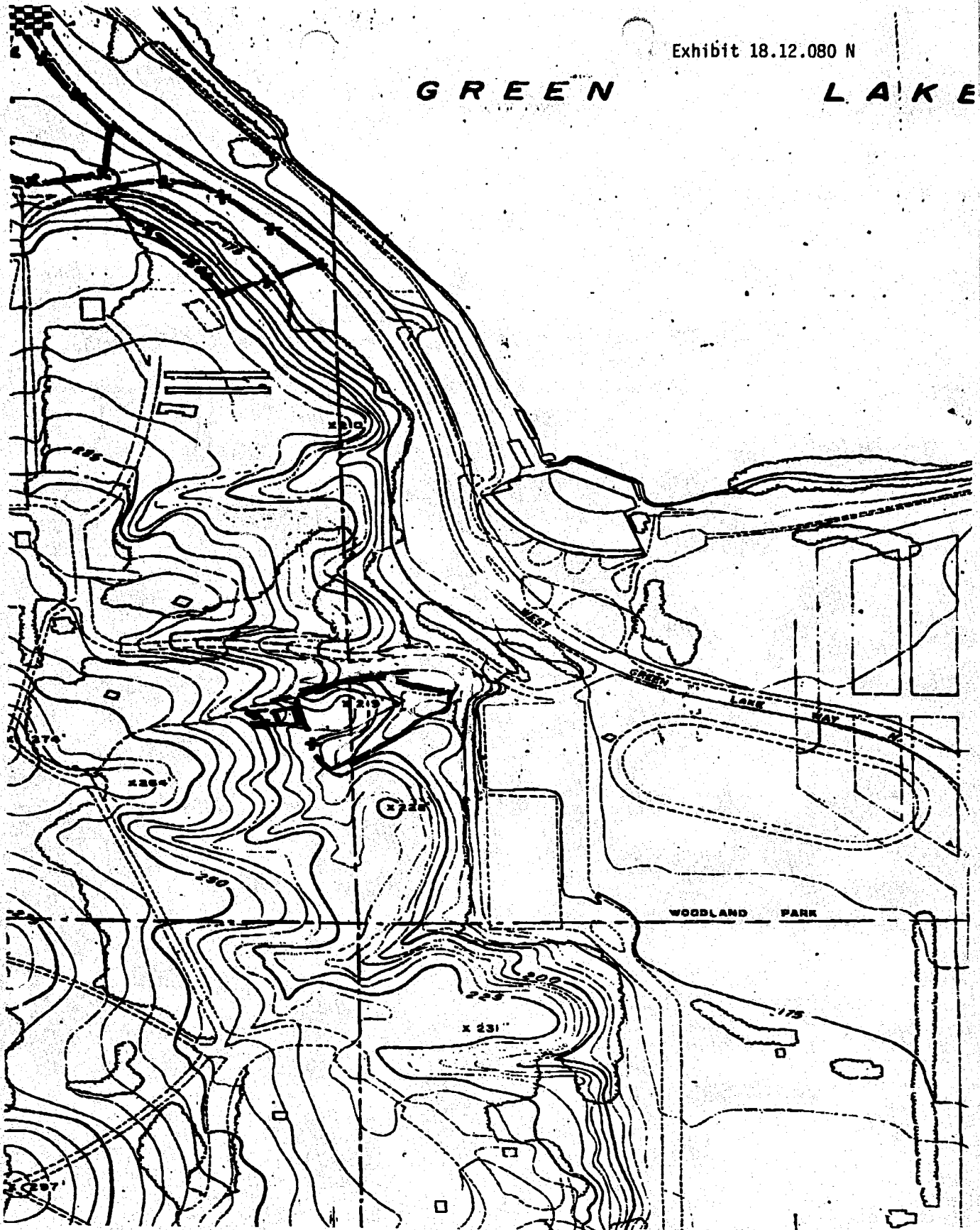


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Exhibit 18.12.080 N

GREEN

LAKE

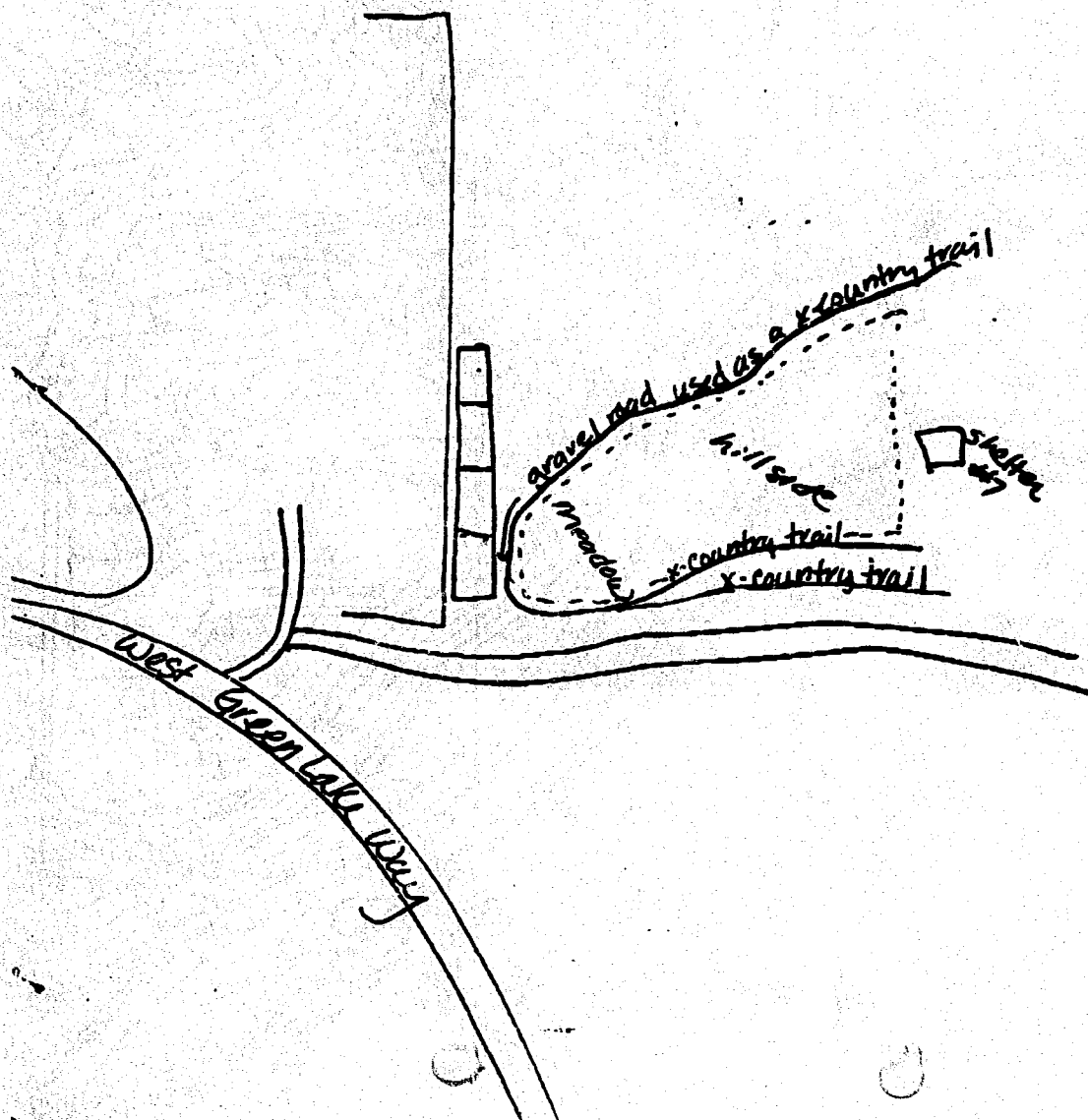


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No. 3318 P. 2/3

SEA PARKS, CW ATNLETTICSCHEDEULLING

Sep. 19. 1997 3:28PM



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# CITY OF SEATTLE

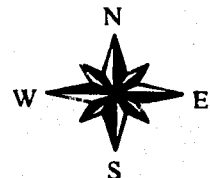


## Transmission Line Site 2

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1993

### LEGEND

Parcel Boundaries  
Potential Off-  
Leash Area



1" = 100'

No warranties of any sort, including accuracy, fitness or merchantability, accompany this product.

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# CITY OF SEATTLE

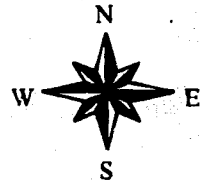


## Transmission Line Site 3

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

### LEGEND

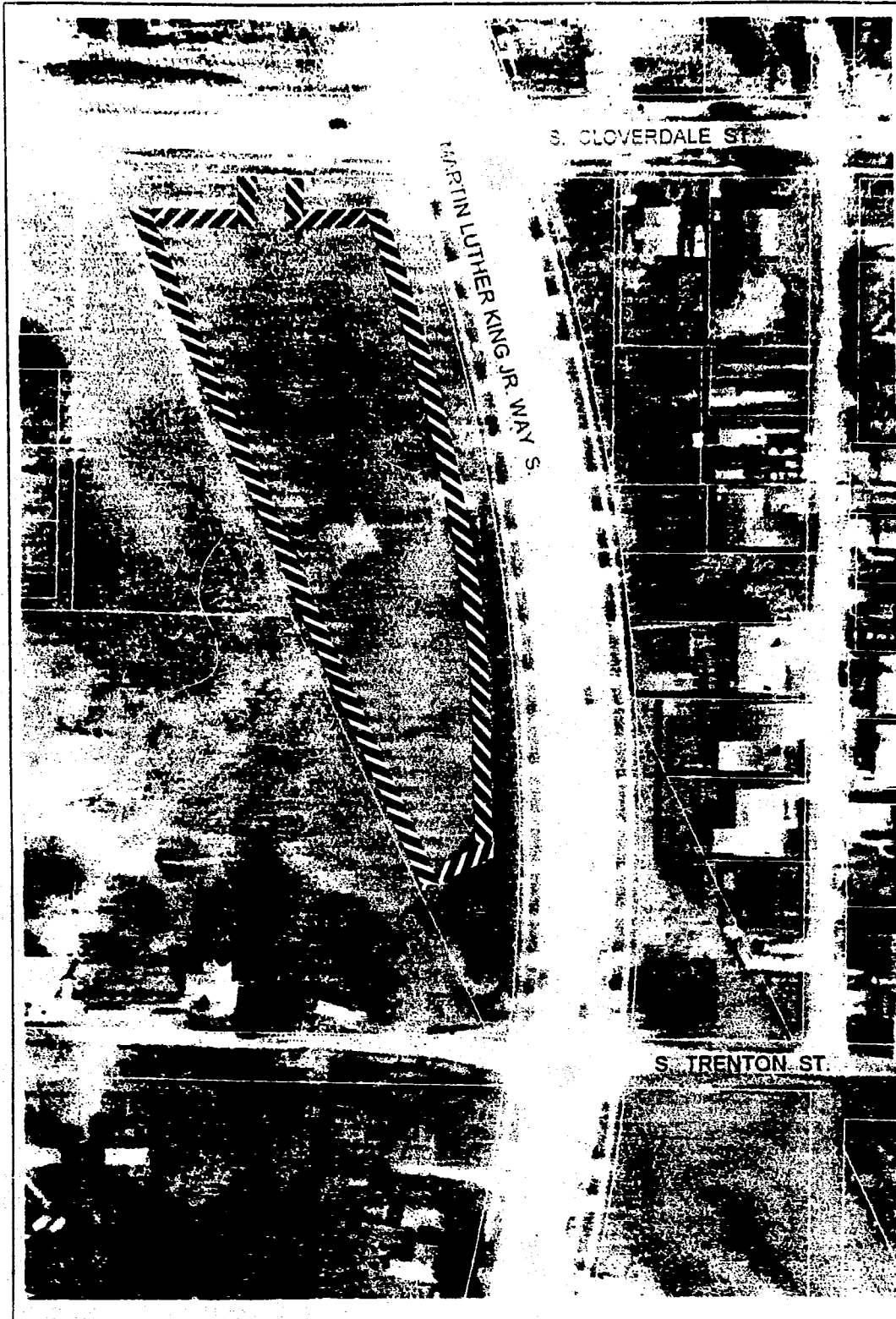
Parcel Boundary



1" = 100'

No warranties of any sort, including accuracy, fitness or merchantability, accompany this product.

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# CITY OF SEATTLE

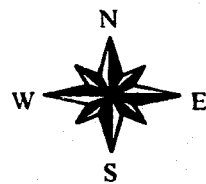


## East Duwamish Greenbelt/ Jose Rizal Park

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

### LEGEND

 Parks Boundary  
 Parcel Boundary  
 Potential Off-Leash Areas



1" = 400'

No warranties of any sort,  
including accuracy,  
fitness or merchantability,  
accompany this product

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# CITY OF SEATTLE

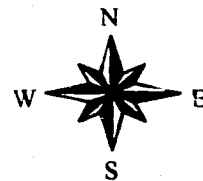


## North Acres Park

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

### LEGEND

 Parks Boundary  
 Parcel Boundaries  
 Potential Off-Leash Area



1" = 200'

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# CITY OF SEATTLE

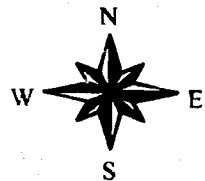


Jefferson Reservoir

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 17, 1997

## LEGEND

 Park Boundary  
 Parcel Boundaries  
 Potential Off-Leash Areas



1" = 300'

No warranties of any sort, including accuracy, fitness or merchantability, accompany this product.

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MSP

Amendment to CB 111869, submitted by Drago

(Amendment to conform CB with intent of resolution)

Section 12.12.080 B - Insert after item 12:

It is the intention of the City Council that only ONE of the sites on North Beacon Hill, either City Light Right of Way # 2 (# 8 above), East Duwamish Greenbelt (# 10 above), or Jefferson Park Reservoir (# 12 above) be developed as an off-leash site at this time and that the site selected be used as an off-leash area only after an appropriate neighborhood process has taken place, a local "stewardship" group has been formed under the auspices of COLA, and an agreement signed.

or other appropriate group.

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1 dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the  
2 same may be a nuisance.

3 B. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash  
4 areas:

- 5 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((A)) H;
- 6 2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((B)) I;
- 7 3. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 J until title to that portion of  
8 the Navy property at Sand Point intended for Parks and Recreation purposes is transferred to  
9 the City and the Use Plan for that portion of the property has been completed and adopted;
- 10 4. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 K will be extended for  
11 one year until October 25, 1998 or until another site on Capitol Hill is secured and opened,  
12 ~~whichever is earlier. No~~ no later than April ~~March~~ 15, 1998, the Department of Parks and  
13 Recreation, following consultation with the Office of Management and Planning and COLA,  
14 *conforms* shall submit at least three alternative sites (one of which may include rotation of the Volunteer  
15 Park area) to the Council for consideration as a replacement for the Volunteer Park site; After  
16 appropriate public hearings and review, the Council will make a final decision on a Capitol  
17 Hill site no later than July 30, 1998.
- 18 5. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080((F)) L
- 19 6. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as  
20 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 M;
- 21 7. That portion of Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 N; provided that this site may  
22 not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship agreement  
23 concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;
- 24

# DOGS OFF LEASH PILOT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

August 22, 1997

## INTRODUCTION

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff and park users have now had more than a year to observe and note the activity levels and impacts of the use of the seven sites designated as pilot sites where dogs may roam off-leash. This period of observation has enabled employees and users to experience the circumstances and impacts that accompany each season of the year, to make midcourse corrections, and to identify the issues that need discussion and resolution. The purpose of this paper is to articulate the experiences of off-leash area users, other park users and DPR with the pilot program; to assess the successes and failures of the program; and to make recommendations on its future in the event the City Council opts to continue it.

The genesis of the program is that after the addition of two Animal Control Officer positions in 1994 to patrol specifically in parks, the number of leash law citations (dogs are allowed in parks on leashes) issued rose dramatically. Dog owners who disagree with the leash law organized and garnered support from the City Council. The Council enacted the pilot program as a one-year opportunity to test off-leash activity as a use in parks. Because no additional funding was approved for the startup and operation of the pilot program, both DPR and Animal Control have operated the program with existing resources.

Dog owners believe that in order to be healthy and well-adjusted socially, dogs need vigorous exercise which can only be achieved when they can run freely without a leash. From the point of view of the people (and dogs) who use the sites, the pilot program has been a success. It is clear that some of the sites have become regular gathering places for many dog owners, and that there is a sense of community and fellowship that has evolved around this activity. It is also clear that the provision of legal, designated off-leash areas has had little impact on illegal off-leash activity in other areas (and how it affects other park users), and that Animal Control is not adequately staffed to patrol where and when it appears to be necessary.

The pilot program has created or raised public expectations in two important areas. One is that the creation of pilot off-leash sites would result in a reduction in off-leash violations in other parks and in non-off-leash areas of parks. Yet because Animal Control's staffing level stayed the same during the pilot as before it, this expectation evolved in spite of the facts. The only way to reduce illegal off-leash activity in parks is to increase Animal Control's enforcement capacity, and to be swift, consistent and severe in carrying out that enforcement.

The other expectation is that because the City enacted a pilot program, it would not only continue but expand. This expectation illustrates the importance of compromise in resolving this issue. While dog owners would like to have many more sites, including large "destination" sites (King County's Marymoor is often cited as a model) and small neighborhood sites to which they could walk, this number and variety is simply not possible in our park system. Conversations with other cities reveal a general belief that off-leash areas work best on properties acquired and operated for that purpose--that is, properties with no history or constituency. The Department has for years faced increasing stresses on and competition for park space that is available to an increasing population for unstructured activities



that can co-exist: picnicking, Frisbee, reading, sunbathing, etc. The designation of an off-leash area effectively removes that piece of park land from use for other purposes.

Dog owners argue vigorously that the Department historically has designated park land for countless specific purposes, including golf, swimming pools, sportsfields, community centers, and tennis courts. While it is true that these traditional recreational activities call for designated park land, it has been a great many years since the City established a "new" recreational activity that requires designated park land. And with the exception of most youth programs and activities, these facilities and sites also generate revenues. Many, like the golf courses, are completely self-supporting. The Department's policy is to focus on and provide at the least possible cost activities for children, youth and teens, and for all others to pay in fees what the market will bear toward the Department's actual cost of providing the activity.

We acknowledge that for a great many Seattle residents, romping with their dogs is their main form of recreation. Off-leash dog activity, though, is fundamentally different from other forms of recreation in a very important way: it involves live animals that may or may not behave erratically or unpredictably (and that may or may not pose a threat to others), and that many park users fear or dislike. Because of this fundamental difference, people tend to be polarized on one side of the issue or the other.

We believe a successful off-leash program needs to be based on a mutual respect between different schools of thought, and an acknowledgment of the legitimacy of each. Dog owners need to understand that though they love their pets like children, they are not children, and the City will not treat them as such. They need to understand that many people fear or dislike dogs, and that it is neither considerate nor acceptable to let even a friendly dog off-leash near people who are uncomfortable around dogs. "He's friendly," or "she's never done THAT before" approaches do not foster good will between the dog-owning and non-dog-owning public. And most important, non-dog owners have a right under the law to expect our parks to be free of unleashed dogs. To move forward with a successful off-leash program, the City needs to implement an emphatic no-tolerance policy toward leash law violators, particularly those who are rude, abusive or threatening to other park users. If the City is able to provide some fenced, gated areas where off-leash dogs and their owners may play, it is fair to ask dog owners to use them, and to ask non-dog owners to accept them.

So because of the heavy use of the parks, the right of non-dog owners to use the parks un-bothered by unleashed dogs, and the many dog owners who want off-leash areas, our challenge is to identify a body of sites that goes part way toward meeting the desires of the dog-owning public, with the least impacts on park neighbors and other park users. In this document we examine the pilot experience, recommend site evaluation criteria, and present recommendations for your consideration.

## PROCESS

Since the beginning of the pilot program we have kept records of all communications with the Department from every medium: mail, e-mail, phone, in person and hotline. Department staff videotaped each site before the pilot began. Crew surveys were conducted before the pilot, in September 1996 and again in late spring 1997. We paid special attention to trouble spots, within our financial limitations. In order to be prepared for a Council decision on the program's future, we worked with Council staff and staff from SPU and City Light to identify a body of 21 sites (including the pilot sites)

in order to widen the field of options. In the spring of 1997 Department staff prepared a scope of work that proved too extensive to be completed within the remaining time until the end of the pilot, so we asked the Council to extend the life of the pilot for three months to September 22.

Upon Council approval of the extension, we implemented a process for reviewing the pilot and potential sites by:

- o designating DPR district representatives knowledgeable about the sites;
- o setting and announcing public workshop dates to a mailing list of approximately 10,000;
- o beginning site visits and mapping of potential sites;
- o beginning work on the environmental checklist to provide complete information about each site;
- o reviewing the sites internally;
- o drafting assessments and public input to date on the pilot sites;
- o holding three public workshops attended by a total of about 250 people to gather ideas and suggestions about what had and had not worked, and what might and might not work;
- o briefing the Board of Park Commissioners on the pilot experience and the potential sites; and
- o completing and submitting the environmental checklist to the Office of Management and Planning.

We departed from the traditional public hearing format by holding interactive public workshops designed to get people to offer comments and ideas, to brainstorm with each other, to offer constructive criticism of the pilot experience, and to make recommendations about site features. Of the 250 people who attended the workshops, two complained about the format. Most people, while uncomfortable at first with a new form for a public meeting, warmed to the arrangement once conversations started. The results were in writing, clearly heartfelt and stimulated by what people heard being said around them.

We received a number of complaints from dog owners who believed we should have opened up a nomination process for potential sites. We explained that because a large body of some 60 park sites had been examined in the "first round" in 1995, and because of our time constraints and extensive environmental review requirements, we had found it necessary to work with City departments to identify potential sites.

While we did not do official "counts" of remarks in favor of, in opposition to, or making suggestions about the off-leash areas program, it is fair to say that during the pilot itself, and at the public workshops and since, we heard more support than opposition. There is a large number of dog owners who support the creation of permanent off-leash areas. They believe well-exercised dogs are well-socialized dogs, that OLAs are a legitimate recreational use of public parks, and that OLAs build community and make Seattle more livable. Attitudes range from the reasonable ("groups need to respect each other's needs" and "please avoid conflicts of use,") to the extreme ("if they don't like living next to a park, let them move," and "dogs have a right to be off leash until they hurt someone").

The dog owners participating in the process agree that more enforcement is necessary outside off-leash areas, and they do not want to be penalized for the bad behavior of the scofflaws. They believe that adding sites will spread the impacts, and support the search for non-park sites. Many are sensitive to environmental concerns and impacts on park neighbors. Many are willing to pay a fee into a fund dedicated to OLA maintenance and improvement, and are willing to work to continue and increase volunteer activity. They also want more than we can reasonably recommend providing: more sites in

general, no site amenities (lights, trees, special areas for old dogs, dog play equipment), more sites with water access, sites within walking distance, and sites like Marymoor.

Some participants in the process opposed off-leash areas in general, believing them not to be a legitimate use of park land. Others opposed a particular site for various reasons, objected to the concept of fencing in parks, or objected to placement of OLAs in Olmsted parks.

Workshop participants also turned out to be a creative group; we received a number of sensible, well-thought out suggestions that will play a major role in our recommendations. Among these are designated hours at some sites, a code of ethics for OLA users, placement of off-leash information on the Web, future consideration of a fee for use of OLAs, and support for increased emphasis on education of dog owners.

## **COSTS**

The Department spent \$34,000 on startup costs for the eight (including two in Volunteer Park) pilot off-leash sites. These costs were for fencing (4' chain link, 6' chain link, orange or green construction fencing and, in the case of Upper Golden Gardens, split rail), kiosks, signage and trash cans. These costs were reimbursed by the Save the Animals Fund, a fund maintained by the Finance Division of the Executive Services Department, which is the organizational home of Animal Control.

The Department has tracked all maintenance costs of the pilot program; the project "life to date" expenditure as of June 30, 1997 is \$57,000. This does not include the cost of administration and oversight, which we estimate to be \$12,000 in 1995, \$15,000 in 1996 and \$9,000 to date in 1997. The total spent to date is \$93,000.

This number will go higher; the Department stepped up planning, environmental review and related activity in July and August 1997; reports for those months will be available later.

A separate issue is that of how to treat the surface of a permanent off-leash area. Several pilot sites (Central Woodland and Upper Golden Gardens in particular) started out with some turf in full sun and some turf shaded by trees. Within a few months the grass was worn away, which led to muddy or dusty conditions and some erosion from water runoff. Horticultural wisdom dictates that an ideal off-leash area, like a turf athletic field, be placed in a sunny, irrigated, grassy area, because shaded vegetation is not resilient enough to withstand ongoing or repeated disturbance. For those potential sites that are grassy, we are faced with choices about whether to try to rotate sites and spend the money to restore eroded turf (only to have them immediately eroded again), or to acknowledge ongoing use and apply some other surface--sand, wood chips, or other materials that would keep the sites usable.

## **ENFORCEMENT/SAFETY/PERCEPTION OF SAFETY**

As has been noted frequently during the process, the City has had leash laws since the 1870s. Leash laws exist for a simple and practical reason: many people dislike or fear dogs. Because dog ownership is a conscious choice, it is dog owners who reasonably should bear the burden of keeping their dogs from bothering people who dislike or fear dogs.

The pilot program proceeded without additional Animal Control resources to educate people about the pilot sites and the leash laws, to steer people to the pilot off-leash areas, and to issue citations to leash law violators. Animal Control has done its best, given other competing priorities, to patrol both in the parks with off-leash areas and in the parks identified by DPR and Animal Control staff as experiencing higher levels of illegal off-leash activity after the start of the pilot than before. For example, LOOK FOR DISCO INFO . . . Despite the lack of new resources, the public expectation was that the designation of off-leash areas would automatically result in less illegal off-leash activity. Based on Animal Control information and complaints from park users, this has not been the case.

Based not just on the number of complaints but on their intensity, we believe a permanent program cannot and will not succeed without adequate enforcement. We receive repeated complaints about dog owners who not only ignore leash and scoop laws, but who are rude, abusive and sometimes threatening to people who suggest they leash their dogs or clean up after them. Part of a permanent program **MUST** be to send a strong message that neither City government nor citizens will tolerate this behavior, and that it will be punished not just by escalating fines, but by exclusion from a park or a whole cluster of parks.

If the program becomes permanent, and dog owners have a variety of off-leash area options, it is reasonable for other park users to expect that they will not encounter unleashed dogs in areas other than off-leash areas. Should the program continue, a task force comprising DPR, Animal Control, the Department of Neighborhoods, and the Seattle Police Department are meeting to talk about ways to increase compliance. We believe the new Exclusion Ordinance, under which enforcement began on August 11, will provide Animal Control Officers in particular an opportunity to issue exclusion orders to repeat violators.

## COLA/CITY AGREEMENTS

The resolution articulating the policy guiding the pilot program called for the establishment of an agreement between the City and COLA to outline the provision of stewardship and maintenance for the pilot OLAs, training and education programs, and fundraising activities to provide some revenue to offset the costs of the sites. In fact there are two levels of agreements. The first is an "umbrella" agreement between COLA and the City which outlines the general purposes of the collaboration. The second is a site-specific agreement signed by the COLA site steward and a DPR staff person, generally the grounds maintenance crew chief for the area, detailing each party's responsibilities for each pilot site.

The umbrella agreement was to have been a linchpin of the program; in its course, results have been mixed. COLA, as a volunteer organization, has experienced a lot of turnover both in its board of directors and among its site stewards, some of it prompted by frustration over the DPR's financial inability to fulfill COLA's wishes. Communication was ragged at first, and has improved considerably at most sites. Another product of COLA's volunteer standing is that it is difficult to maintain a sustained level of activity. We were surprised by the number of participants in the public workshops who were unaware of COLA's existence. COLA has also had difficulty raising funds (except at Volunteer Park, where the funds have been spent locally and have bypassed the Off-Leash Areas Fund), and efforts between COLA and Animal Control to keep up efforts to educate and inform the dog-owning public of the program, the rules and the leash laws, never really got off the ground. COLA provision of training and education sessions, work parties and site improvements varied widely from site to site.

One element on which DPR gets barely a passing grade from COLA is the consistent provision of plastic bags. Under a permanent program the Department would research and provide durable dispensers, and fill them as a part of crews' regular route duties.

The umbrella agreement called for COLA's help in addressing instances of off-leash dogs in non-off-leash areas. Because this did not occur to any appreciable degree due to extensive turnover in COLA's leadership and site stewards, if the program continues, we would recommend that COLA and Animal Control set up a communication network and protocol on how COLA can address instances of dogs off-leash in non off-leash areas.

We believe cooperative site management is key to the success of a program, and to that end will recommend that COLA formalize its standing as a legal entity and fundraiser by incorporating, much like Save Our Dog Areas (SODA), the organization that coordinates with King County on the management of the off-leash site at Marymoor Park. In cases where there are issues to be resolved, we will recommend that "stakeholders" in a given site--i.e., COLA, U.N.C.O.L.A., neighbors and interested/involved organizations go through a negotiation process to reach agreement on site conditions, maintenance and management.

## PILOT SITES

The Department now has gathered a large amount of information, much of it based on staff and user experience, observation and anecdote, and a lot of public input on the successful and less successful aspects of the pilot program. In this section we will go through the following information for each of the pilot sites; this information has led us to the recommendations on page XXX:

- ♣ How well the parties to the "umbrella agreement" between the City and COLA fulfilled the responsibilities outlined in the agreement.
- ♣ How well the parties to the site-specific agreement between Department staff and COLA stewards fulfilled the responsibilities outlined in the agreement.
- ♣ A synopsis of the public input received by DPR by telephone, mail and e-mail.
- ♣ Highlights of the surveys conducted by DPR grounds maintenance crews in June 1996, September 1996 and May 1997.
- ♣ Issues raised by observers relating to security of other park users in non-off-leash areas.
- ♣ How well the site meets the criteria for a "good" or serviceable site that have evolved from the pilot experience.

Not surprisingly, some sites have been more successful than others in the view of dog owners, park caretakers and other park users. Dog owners clearly enjoy and support the project, and enjoy having a place to exercise their dogs and to socialize with their fellow dog-owners. Dog behaviorists indicate that well-exercised dogs tend to be healthy and less likely to engage in hostile behavior. Good exercise for dogs is not exclusive to off-leash activity; it can be provided on-leash by an active owner. Some veterinarians believe that the incidence of "kennel cough" and other diseases transmissible among dogs is greater in circumstances where many dogs congregate.

Opponents of the project submit that concentrated dog activity erodes soil, wears away turf, disrupts wildlife, damages wetlands and meadows, and has no place on park land. Other opponents object to a proliferation of dogs off-leash where leashes are required, and cite fear for their own or their children's personal safety when confronted by off-leash dogs in open park areas. Given the relative success of the program, if the Council decides to continue it, our challenge is to identify a body of sites that will go some way toward satisfying the desire of dog owners for off-leash areas and that will, through compromise and creative thinking, minimize and mitigate the impacts.

### **1. UPPER GOLDEN GARDENS**

Upper Golden Gardens is a popular, moderately heavily used site that enjoys good site stewardship. Its "down side" is the comments and complaints about dogs off-leash--and owner behavior--in areas of the park where leashes are required--between the parking lot and the OLA, on the trails, and on the beach below.

#### **Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

- o COLA:  
Volunteer activity is high; volunteers have worked to provide bags and to police the site, and have maintained the kiosk. While there has been little education and training that we know of, and no site improvements made, COLA has been fairly active at this site. Volunteers communicate well with crew members.
- o DPR:  
The Department provided initial site improvements and normal maintenance. Because of heavy use and because the site slopes downward from north to south, the grass quickly wore away and mud took its place. The crew has worked well with COLA especially in recent months, and believes that COLA's input has been helpful in minimizing the amount of maintenance needed.
- o Animal Control:  
Between June 1996 and May 1997, Animal Control patrolled the park 78 times, issued 7 warnings and 18 citations, and impounded one dog.

#### **Public input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Site is too small	5
Site is great--we go daily--there are no problems	5
There is no conflict with other uses	2
We need a swimming area at the beach	2
How about Allen Elementary School?	2
Children are afraid of dogs off-leash here	2
People are rude when asked to leash their dogs	2
This is an Olmsted park	1
The turf is gone	1
This is a slide area with sensitive soils	1
There is no designated use here	1
Expand the OLA to the parking lot	1
Need more areas in NW Seattle	1



Needs water source 1  
Was threatened by an off-leash dog owner outside OLA 1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o Underground springs make areas that tend to be muddy in wet weather even muddier; water has always collected in the flat area south of the OLA.
- o There is no irrigation, so in hot, dry weather the turf is stressed
- o The soil in the OLA is somewhat unstable.
- o While there has been some erosion on slopes as the grass disappeared, the erosion ended up in a flat area.
- o There is a creek daylighting next to the OLA; it runs next to the beach and daylighting in Puget Sound.
- o Crews still see eagles and falcons in the upper part of the park.
- o Crew observations are that off-leash activity has virtually eliminated illegal drug, camping and sexual activity.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

One park user with his child reported a borderline death threat from a dog owner who refused to leash her dog; the incident was reported to SPD.

**Environment/habitat:**

There are concerns about erosion and about the potential for bacteria in the stream and at the beach from dog waste.

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**Issues:**

**Dogs off leash in areas where leashes are required.** This seems to be a problem, in part because of the lure of the beach and trails for dogs. Observers report more dogs off-leash illegally in recent months than before the pilot period. The Department believes this problem can be mitigated by a combination of fencing all the way to the parking lot, and enforcement.

**2. CENTRAL WOODLAND PARK**

Central Woodland Park pilot site is a popular and heavily used site. There appears to be a moderate amount of volunteer activity. Opposition focuses on the conflict with the established use of the park as a cross-country practice and meet route, the site's proximity to the picnic shelters

and the rabbit warren, the number of dogs off-leash outside the designated area, and placement of the site in a part of the park enjoyed as a passive area.

**Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

**o COLA:**

Volunteer activity is moderate here. Users clean up after their pets, and volunteers have helped crews with some maintenance work. While there has been little education and training that we know of, volunteers did help spread gravel on wet areas of the site and have filled plastic bag dispensers. The kiosk is well-maintained.

**o DPR:**

Department crews provided initial site improvements and normal maintenance. Because of heavy use of the site and the especially wet winter, the grass was soon worn away except on the periphery, and it became muddy, especially in the low areas. The Department and COLA worked cooperatively on spreading gravel in a low area. Department staff worked with COLA to identify cross-country practice and meet dates when the OLA would be closed. Some dog owners complied with the closure; others did not, which raises safety or perception of safety issues for the runners.

**o Animal Control:**

During the period June 1996 to May 1997, Animal Control conducted 139 patrols in the park and issued 4 warnings and 40 citations.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition:**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Needs gates	9
There are too many dogs off leash outside the OLA	8
There are too many use conflicts	6
Like the site	5
This is an Olmsted park	4
Grass is destroyed	4
There is degradation of the slope	3
Rotate sites among 3 areas	3
Shrink this site to accommodate cross-country, use GL site	3
Move OLA away from the rabbit warren	2
The owners at this site are responsible	2
Deters illegal activity	2
Runners should go around	2
Don't put fences up	2
Plant hardier grass	2
It's too small	2
Love the water spigot	1
Bulletin boards create good communication	1
City spends so much \$ on soccer fields, why not on OLAs?	1
Olmsted argument is crap.	1
Joggers bother dogs more than vice versa.	1
Lots of kids are afraid	1
Do feces/urine in the ground make it toxic?	1

Buy new land for OLAs	1
How about Allen Elementary?	1
How about at the periphery of the park near Green Lake?	1
Mail information to owners of registered, licensed dogs	1
Create a City Education position to educate people	1
Put in a toll gate	1
Create one large area on this side of the park by Aurora	1
Expand this site or choose another nearby	1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o Crews observe 50-plus dogs at the site on an average day.
- o Except around the edges, the turf is gone so the site is muddy when wet, dusty when dry, and there are a number of holes. This also has an impact on the cross-country routes.
- o There is water runoff to the east which collects in a low spot, and which has caused some damage to the soil
- o There is good communication between crews and COLA.
- o Crews have observed that when owners are socializing, unsupervised dogs can show aggressive behavior.
- o Some illegal activities have disappeared or moved because of the high foot traffic between the parking lots and the OLA.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

Does not appear to be a problem at this site.

**Environment/habitat:**

Some people have expressed concerns about the degradation of a formerly serene, natural part of the park, about soil erosion, and about harassment of local wildlife, including the rabbits in the rabbit warren. One staff person saw the owner of a large dog unleash the dog in the rabbit warren and "sic" the dog on the rabbits.

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	x
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**Issues:**

**Dogs off Leash.** An identified problem at this site is the prevalence of dogs off-leash in areas where leashes are required. It is compounded by the site's nearness to the picnic shelters and even to the lawn bowling courts to the north. Some are dogs let loose from cars at the parking lot on the way to the off-

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leash area; others do not appear to be headed for the off-leash area. This could be mitigated by gated fencing and enforcement.

**Cross-Country Practices and Meets.** Cross-country has been an established use in Woodland Park since the 1950s. COLA and the Department made good faith efforts to accommodate both uses in the fall of 1996, with only limited success. Practice and meet dates were posted on the kiosks; some dog owners complied with the closures while others did not. The turf loss and resulting muddy conditions is a safety issue for runners. The Department believes there is no reasonable solution available to this problem.

### **3. MAGNUSON PARK**

The Magnuson Park pilot off-leash site is probably the most popular of the pilot sites in the view of the users, and it is a long-term "de facto" OLA. It has been controversial on a number of fronts, and has generated both more support and more complaints and criticism than any other site.

- o It has been difficult to "sign" effectively because most of the site comprises a trail;
- o There have been complaints of :
  - dogs off-leash outside the off-leash area (parking lots, playfield, Kite Hill),
  - children harassed by off-leash dogs, and
  - dogs turning meadow to mush, chasing wildlife and displacing nesting ground birds; and
- o There has been a steady stream of complaints about the rudeness and abuse by scofflaw dog owners of citizens who ask them to leash their dogs, and about the lack of resources for enforcement of the leash law outside the OLA, both in Magnuson Park and in other Northeast Seattle parks, including Ravenna, Cowen, Mapleleaf, Froula and Meadowbrook.

From the users' perspective, the site is well-loved but they lament the Department's lack of resources for its maintenance and restoration (it becomes very muddy in the rainy seasons); COLA wanted the Department to do some improvements that, because they were deemed to be "capital," we were unable to do. The 20-or-so foot water access point is heavily used. The signs marking its edges have been moved to make it appear the access point is wider. When Department crews replaced the signs in the correct places, users were angry.

#### **Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

- o COLA:

At Magnuson Park there has been high turnover of site stewards and some turnover of Department staff because of reorganizations, promotions and hiring processes. There have been well-intentioned efforts to make improvements, especially to the beach access point. Volunteers have put down Geo-Textile fabric and spread sand at the beach access point, and spread wood chips along the wet arm of the trail route during several work parties. The level of COLA activity and presence does not seem to have had a visible effect on the number and intensity of complaints about dogs off leash outside the OLA. COLA members are reporting damage to crews; the level of COLA activity has been effective in getting users to scoop, but not in getting them to leash outside the OLA.

o **DPR:**

The Department provided initial site improvements and normal maintenance. Because of heavy use and a lack of resources for the repair of muddy conditions, the trail became very muddy during the winter months. There were times when it was so muddy that crew trucks could not get down the trail to reach the trash cans, and users were forced outside the boundary of the OLA. While spotty at first, Department staff contacts with COLA have improved. Department staff worked with COLA in coordinating labor and materials for minor improvements at the beach. The Department was unable, for financial reasons and because of the pilot nature of the program, to respond positively to a COLA proposal to build a bulkhead along the shoreline.

o **Animal Control:**

Between June 1996 and May 1997, Animal Control patrolled Magnuson Park 100 times and issued 12 warnings and 199 citations.

**Public input: instances of support/opposition**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Love site--want more water access	43
Needs better signs and fencing	29
Need better enforcement outside the OLA	26
Like the long trail walk	22
Winter conditions are terrible	20
Move the entrance to the parking lot to avoid OL outside OLA	13
This is a good site with no problems	9
Move the OLA all the way to the beach (skip on-leash section)	8
Create a stewards' group	7
This site has environmental variety	6
Enlarge the OLA into unused areas of the park	5
Instances of abuse/threats from owners asked to leash dogs	5
Any erosion at the shoreline is due to boats, not dogs	4
Need more trash cans	4
Use parking lot at the old commissary for parking	4
Dogs need exercise	4
Create a surface of boards or bark	3
Add Kite Hill to the OLA during the wet months	3
How about user fees	3
People are responsible at this site	3
There is plenty of parking	3
OLA has resulted in less drug activity	2
Need more plastic bags	2
Need more public education	2
Kids are a problem	2
Users go off the OLA boundaries because of the mud	2
Too narrow/too far from parking lot	2
There is damage to the wetland and erosion	2

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<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Incorporate decision into Sand Point planning	1
Add elevated wood walkways	1
Add an access road from the park entrance to the OLA	1
Go to Marymoor anyway because it's less hassle	1
There is no environmental degradation	1
Alternate suggestion: reservoir at 15th, south of 65th?	1
City should consult neighbors, users	1
It's ugly and junky	1
Trucks do more damage than dogs and people	1
Great site because there's no traffic	1
Hire a park ranger for Magnuson	1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o The 80% of the site that is paved is unchanged. The remaining 20% has turned to "mush."
- o There has been damage to the natural meadow and wetlands that lie within the OLA.
- o The areas most disturbed are the wettest, which reduces the limited stock of wetland area.
- o Erosion at the beach area has been treated with 50 yards of sand, which abandons the original soil. Erosion of the wet arm on the trail route has been treated with wood chips.
- o Staff observe that owner scooping dropped slightly since the beginning of the pilot.
- o This site is a major habitat for ring-neck pheasant, cliff swallows, snowy owls, barn owls, hawks, bald eagles and great blue heron; the pheasant population has disappeared.
- o Staff have observed an increase in leash law violations since the beginning of the pilot.
- o Staff have received complaints about unruly dogs and concerns from people worried about their safety, and have reported fear of dogs themselves near the maintenance shed which is inside the OLA.
- o Kite flyers are concerned about dogs off-leash on Kite Hill.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

There have been numerous complaints first about the number of dogs off-leash at Magnuson in non-off-leash areas; an extension of these complaints in many cases is the expression of fear or intimidation because of the dog itself, or because of the hostility of owners asked to leash their dogs. The point made is that while many dog owners believe their dogs to be friendly and non-threatening, the perception of a person--particularly with children present--who dislikes or fears dogs is that the dog is neither. We have heard in particular from a group of senior neighbors of the park who walk there daily. This is an issue of perceptions of safety, of the right to walk the parks unbothered by unleashed dogs, and of civility.

**Environment/habitat:**

The Department heard from several citizens about the wildlife habitat at Magnuson, in particular about the wetland area along the trail and about the unique birds which feed and nest there. Dogs trample the wetland and chase the birds.

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**Issues:**

**Mud.** While crews and COLA volunteers did their best with limited resources, the trail area became very muddy and wet during the rainy months, and one result was that users began creating new trails into the natural area boundaries to avoid puddles. Crews had difficulty getting trucks through to empty the trash cans; they moved them to the end of the trail and asked COLA to try to keep people from moving them back. The Department, working with COLA, can improve the path surface.

**Dogs off Leash.** The large number of reports of dogs off leash outside the OLA indicate that peer pressure is not working, and that if this site is to continue, other measures must be taken. Dogs were reported particularly in the area between the parking lot and the beginning of the OLA, the sensitive wetlands/wildlife area, the athletic fields, Kite Hill and at the NOAA gate entrance at the lake front. The underlying theme of the reports is that there are many regular park users (walkers, runners, parents with children) who believe (correctly) that they have a right to enjoy the non-off-leash parts of the park without fear of intimidation by unleashed dogs. Compounding this issue is the high number of reports of abusive or intimidating behavior by owners who are asked to leash their dogs. Even though the number of citations issued between 6/96 and 5/97 (199) far exceeds the number issued at any other park with an off-leash site, the level of enforcement appears inadequate. The Department believes this impact can be mitigated by a combination of fencing and enforcement.

**Configuration.** The long, narrow configuration and the "leash required" area between the trail and the beach make this site difficult to mark effectively, which results in confusion about the boundaries. This problem can be solved by fencing the outer boundary of the trail.

**Beach Access.** Dog owners enjoy the beach access but believe it is too small. There has been confusion over its width caused by movement of the signs by unknown people to make it appear wider. When crews posted signs and put up fencing to clarify the legal boundaries there was an outcry. The Department believes this problem can be solved by enlarging, clearly fencing and marking the beach access area.

**Environmental.** This site, more than any other, has produced complaints about damage to the wetlands/wildlife area, beach erosion, and loss of unique birds. The Department believes fencing would keep off-leash activity on the trail.



#### **4 & 5. VOLUNTEER PARK--GENERAL**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
It is not appropriate to put an OLA in an Olmsted park	7
Find alternate sites (west of cemetery, under I-5)	4
Open both all day to spread impacts	3
We need more sites	3
Adjacent neighbors have too much "say"	2
This park is too close to neighbors	1
This park needs enforcement	1
Parks are for families	1
See no conflict with kids	1
See no conflict with other uses	1
This is a good site	1
Olmsteds wouldn't mind	1
Shutting down OLAs will cause increase in illegal OL activity	1
Please fence whatever sites there are	1
Post stewards' names on the kiosk or bulletin board	1
Recruit volunteers to patrol the OLA and vicinity	1

#### **4. WEST VOLUNTEER PARK**

The West Volunteer Park pilot site has been a popular site with especially heavy use because of the restricted hours at the east site (4-9 am). Adjacent neighbors along Federal Avenue East and beyond began to object at the beginning of the pilot program, complaining of noise, mud, odor and concentrated activity. COLA responded in good faith by trying to get dog owners to "stop 'n' play" at different points along the long, narrow site. When the Department requested a 90-day extension of the pilot program, we also recommended closure of the west site and extension of the hours (to 6-9 am and 6-9 pm) at the east site. The City Council amended these extended hours to 6 am to 9 pm.

##### **Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

- o COLA:  
Volunteer activity grew constantly over the period June 1996 to June 1997, and ranged from stewards' presence at the site to model good behavior, sharing information about rules sharing information about rules and regulations, distributing literature, etc., to monthly work parties to fill holes, pick up trash and clear away debris. Stewards contributed many volunteer hours distributing written materials and explaining the rules to site users. COLA also helped spread wood chips and sand, clear out ivy and rake leaves. COLA and the crews have improved the regularity of their contact, and stewards help users understand and comply with the rules.
- o DPR:  
The Department has provided initial site improvements and routine maintenance. Once the turf was worn away, crews sanded the area heavily but observe that it no longer looks ornamental. Early in the program Department staff had difficulties reaching stewards by telephone; communications have improved in recent months. Crews worked with COLA to coordinate labor and materials for improvements.

- o **Animal Control:**  
Between June 1996 and May 1997, Animal Control patrolled Volunteer Park 69 times and issued 2 warnings and 36 citations.

**Public input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Please reopen it	9
Crime in and around park has dropped during pilot	3
West side neighbors have too much "say"	2
It's an Olmsted park, so OLA is inappropriate	2
Apartment dwellers west of the park need a site	1
City should buy new land for OLAs	1
Make the whole city off-leash	1
We need more sites on Capitol Hill	1
Good neighborhood social opportunity	3
Use license fee revenues to do site improvements	1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o Crews reported complaints about damage to the turf, odor, sanitation, noise, and from users about citations issued by Animal Control.
- o The turf disappeared with heavy use, and dogs dug a number of holes.
- o Crews observed an increase in illegal off-leash use outside the OLA and several near-misses between cars and dogs allowed to run across the loop road.
- o Crews observed that picnickers and sunbathers who used to use the site have disappeared, as have joggers who used the site as an entry to the park.
- o Crews believe almost all users pick up their dogs' waste.
- o Runoff on the site has been stabilized by the addition of sand.
- o Crew member witnessed the injury of one dog by another and 2 fights, neither serious, and says that neighbors report more fights than crews see.
- o Crews report an increase in noise compared to the prior passive uses.
- o Crews report no noticeable decrease in illicit behavior, especially with the onset of warm weather, though they reported a drop-off in illegal camping.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

Owner behavior is not an issue at this site. Users report a drop in crime during the pilot period, while crews have noticed no drop-off except in illegal camping. We are waiting for site-specific comments from SPD.

**Environment/habitat:**

There have been complaints about the erosion of the turf at this site, but there are no unique plantings here. There have been objections to the use of any part of Volunteer Park as an OLA because it is a carefully planned Olmsted park with historical significance.

#### Criteria for a "good" site

Distance/buffer from residences	x
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	✓
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

#### Issues:

**Proximity to private homes.** The pilot experience has taught us that locating an off-leash areas next to people's homes is not a good idea. The intrusion is simply too great.

#### 5. EAST VOLUNTEER PARK

The East Volunteer site has been a very popular site with dog users. At the beginning of the pilot project, users objected to the restricted hours, and there were complaints of illegal use of the site. Users gradually began using the west site in greater numbers. When the west site was closed in June 1997, the hours at the east site were extended. We have received both support of and opposition to this site. Support centers on the fact that Volunteer Park is the only pilot site in the central part of the city and serves a population-intensive neighborhood where many residents do not have cars. Opposition centers on noise and other impacts felt by neighbors across 15th Avenue East, aesthetics (damage to the turf), illegal off-leash activity outside the designated area, the fact that Volunteer is an historic Olmsted park, and the loss of the space for other uses. If use of this site for off-leash activity is to continue, some negotiation on its management will be necessary.

#### Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?

- o COLA:  
Volunteer activity has grown over the period June 1996-June 1997, and now ranges from stewards' presence at the site to model good behavior, sharing information about rules and regulations, distributing literature, etc., to monthly work parties to fill holes, pick up trash and clear away debris. Communication between the crew and the stewards needs to be constant and ongoing. Stewards are contributing volunteer hours distributing written materials and explaining the rules to site users. during the wet months to protect it from damage. At the beginning of the pilot period some users repeatedly removed the signs that indicated the restricted ours, and crews did not hear about this from COLA. This is no longer a problem since the hours have been extended. Regularity of contact between crews and COLA continues to improve.
- o DPR:  
The Department provided initial site improvements and ongoing maintenance to the site. The crew fenced off the low-lying part of the site between October 1996 and May 1997 to protect it from erosion. Communication continues to improve between crews and COLA stewards.

- c. **Animal Control:**  
Between June 1996 and May 1997, Animal Control patrolled Volunteer Park 69 times and issued 2 warnings and 36 citations.

**Public input: instances of support/opposition**

**Comment**

**# of people**

It's a good site if it has long hours, fencing, user fees  
Worry that vegetation will be destroyed  
This is an Olmsted park  
The fence is ugly  
Crime has diminished since the start of the pilot  
Feels threatened by dogs  
We need more sites  
This was our favorite volleyball/picnic site  
Worry about damage to the turf  
OLA creates a bad image for tourists  
Kids and dogs can and do share the space  
Volunteers have a work party once a month  
There needs to be more enforcement outside OLA  
Too close to play area

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1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o This is a very popular site with heavy use.
- o Many owners unleash their dogs from the parking lot.
- o Complaints made to the crews (20 to 50 per year) reflect that people are unhappy about the damage to the grass caused by the off-leash activity.
- o Comments from dog owners are positive; others are dismayed that this site was chosen; since fall 1996 the balance has changed from mostly positive to mostly negative comments.
- o Turf damage is major.
- o Non-dog owners stay completely away from the site, considering it unusable for sunbathing or picnicking.
- o Site users are very conscientious about cleaning up after their dogs.
- o There may be a minor impact on common birds and on squirrels chased by dogs.
- o Dogs overall are well-behaved.
- o OLA is quieter than areas with other activities.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

Site users stay within the boundaries; other dog owners violate the leash law outside it. Two people have reported attacks by dogs; in one case the owner was defensive and abusive.

**Environment/habitat:**

Crews report some impact on local birds and squirrels and heavy damage to the turf that comes with heavy use and dogs digging holes.

**Revenues to OLA Fund/raised at sites by COLA:**

COLA reports having raised \$750 from contributions from users of both Volunteer Park sites.

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

<b>Distance/buffer from residences</b>	✓
<b>Absence of other established uses</b>	x
<b>Available close parking</b>	✓
<b>Possible offset of illegal activities</b>	✓
<b>Distance from children's play areas</b>	na
<b>Distance from wildlife habitats</b>	✓
<b>Absence of Department-sponsored activities</b>	✓
<b>Low potential for spillover impacts</b>	x

**Issues:**

**Volunteer Park's status as an Olmsted park.** Many residents are concerned about the use of any part of Volunteer Park as an off-leash area because of its unique Olmsted status. The City in 1903 hired Frederick Law Olmsted's two sons to design a system of parks and boulevards. Their stature in landscape architecture sparked intense public support for the design, and prompted the first bond issue approved by Seattle voters for park improvements. Historic and artistic features include formal gardens, the Conservatory, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, statues, plaques, monuments and sculptures. This issue will require consideration.

**6. BLUE DOG POND**

**Blue Dog Pond is a Seattle Public Utilities-owned parcel that has all the characteristics of a "good" off-leash site, yet has not enjoyed a great deal of use.** The closure of the Genesee site when the capping project gets under way may prompt some Genesee users to use Blue Dog Pond as an alternate.

**Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

- o **COLA:**  
Volunteer activity at this site has been moderate; volunteers removed scots broom from the site on one occasion.
- o **DPR:**  
The Department provided initial site improvements and routine maintenance. If the program becomes permanent, the Department will install fencing as a shield from traffic along the east (Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South) and south (South Massachusetts) sides of the site in time for the closure of the Genesee site, which likely will prompt Genesee users to use Blue Dog Pond.
- o **Animal Control:**  
During the period June 1996 through May 1996, Animal Control conducted 14 patrols and issued one citation.

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**Public input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Great site; activity will increase visibility and positive use	2 (one is S. Atlantic Street Community Organization)
Will be a pond during the winter	5
Add the DOT property across MLK	3
Fence, add landscaping	3
Add a bark trail around the perimeter	2
Add better signage	1
Dog off leash complaint	1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o Use has increased over the life of the pilot but is still the lowest of all sites.
- o Users scoop regularly.
- o Birds no longer nest in the tall grass.
- o Evidence of illegal activity observed: drug use, weekend partying.
- o Slight impact on available parking: neighborhood cars that never move.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:** No issues.

**Environment/habitat:**

Crews observed that common birds seen nesting in the tall grass in the past have left the site. This could be because off-leash activity or simply because the site has been mowed.

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**Issues:**

**General use of the site.** Blue Dog Pond is the least used, and enjoys arguably the best conditions, of all the sites. If it were to become a permanent site we would encourage COLA to "market" it to encourage more use. Fencing will be necessary along the east and south boundaries.

**7. GENESEE PARK**

The Genesee Park pilot site has been very successful: it is heavily used and enjoys a broad volunteer base who have "adopted" the site and made a number of improvements to it. Complaints from a single neighbor have decreased over time. The site will close in early August to

accommodate the landfill capping project work. The site's adjacency to a soccer field is noted, and may require attention in the site agreement.

**Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

- o **COLA:**  
Volunteer activity at Genesee has been high. Stewards have posted signs asking users to park across Genesee in the parking lot rather than on 46th, and have added a bulletin board, potted tree, recycle boxes, signs, a bench, etc. The volunteers here have been relatively active and once distributed flyers at Seward Park encouraging use of the Genesee OLA. The upcoming closure prompted volunteers to identify, and to ask the Department to identify alternate sites for use (assuming the program continues beyond the September 22 pilot end date) during the capping project work. Because most of the park is in low-lying areas that have use conflicts or upcoming plans, identification of an alternate site for use during the capping project was not possible. The manager of the capping project will, however, work with the contractor to delay the closure of the OLA for as long as possible, and we encourage users to go to Blue Dog Pond, which is fairly close.
- o **DPR:**  
The Department provided initial site improvements and routine maintenance, and has worked with COLA volunteers to add wood chips and crushed rock to muddy spots.
- o **Animal Control:**  
During the period from June 1996 to May 1997, Animal Control patrolled Genesee Park 79 times and issued 8 citations.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Great site	13
Needs shade	6
Needs water	4
Has created a new community	5
Needs good enforcement	5
Needs fencing to ground level	3
Needs more gravel	3
Need alternate site during landfill capping project	2
Need neighborhood signoff	2
Needs air lock gates	2
Concerned about adjacent soccer use	1
The owners are responsible	1
How about Martha Washington?	1
Needs better signs in the park pointing to the OLA	1
Needs an all-weather surface	1
Needs lights	1
Needs designated hours	1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o 50-plus dogs per day



- o Owners observed scooping most of the time
- o Complaints to crews only from one neighbor
- o Turf worn; some areas muddy due to wet weather; added chips/crushed rock
- o More than a dozen positive comments from users

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

One complaint about dogs being off-leash outside the designated area

**Environment/habitat:** No issues

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**Issues:**

- o **Closure of site for landfill capping project.** The landfill capping project will begin in August right after Seafair. The project manager will work with the contractor to delay the closure of the OLA for as long as possible. Because there are legal obstacles to establishing a temporary alternate site within the authority of the pilot ordinance, users will be encouraged to use Blue Dog Pond as an alternative site. The Department may include an alternate Genesee site (for the duration of the capping project) in its package of recommendations to the City Council on potential permanent off-leash sites.
- o **Opposition of neighbors on 46th.** At the start of the project the crew chief and users heard a number of complaints from a neighbor across 46th. In recent months there have been no complaints.
- o **Proximity of the soccer field.**

**8. WESTCREST PARK**

The Westcrest Park pilot off-leash site has been a moderate success; its use is increasing, the damage to the park (turf) has been minor, and it has active COLA site stewards who work hard to make it work.

**Responsibilities under the umbrella agreement: how well kept?**

- o **COLA:**  
Volunteer activity got off to a slow start; new stewards have been there daily in the spring, patrolling and educating. They hold a work party the last Saturday of each month. There has been some limited support of Animal Control in discouraging illegal off-leash activity.

- o **DPR:**  
The Department provided initial site improvements and routine maintenance, and repaired the lights along the north end of the park. Cooperation between the crew and the COLA volunteers has been good.
- o **Animal Control:**  
During the period June 1996 through May 1997, Animal Control conducted 49 patrols at Westcrest Park and issued 2 warnings and 7 citations.

**Public input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Make the OLA bigger	5
The OLA is great and in great demand.	2
Need more sites in West Seattle	1
The OLA discourages illegal activity	1
Needs better fencing	1
Don't like to come here because of illegal activity in park	1

**Crew survey data highlights:**

- o The site is not heavily used, but use grew from an average 15 dogs/day in mid-1996 to an average 16-32 dogs/day in the spring of 1997.
- o The turf was worn and there were some holes dug inside the chain link fence.
- o Heavy park traffic from men using the park for sexual activity; some drug activity.
- o Maintenance obligations increase as use increases.

**Safety/security/owner behavior:**

COLA reported to Animal Control a serious case of abuse of a dog by some teenagers in September 1996. One user reported being intimidated by illicit sexual activity elsewhere in the park; SPD believes legitimate off-leash activity will reduce some illegal sexual and drug-related activity.

**Environment/habitat: No issues.**

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**Issues:**

**Illegal uses in the park.** Part of the thinking in choosing this site was that the presence of dogs and their owners would deter some of the less desirable uses of the park. While the use is a positive presence, some dog owners feel uncomfortable in the park. If this site were to become a permanent site it needs to be "marketed," and an increased SPD presence would be needed to help displace the illegal activities.

## POTENTIAL SITES

In our review of the 13 other potential sites identified for discussion and inclusion in the environmental review, we used the same criteria that evolved from the pilot experience. Following are descriptions of the sites and notations of how they "rated" on the basis of the criteria.

### **1A. WOODLAND PARK POTENTIAL: NEAR NORTH TENNIS COURTS**

This approximately one-acre site is at the north end of Woodland Park, west of the road that runs north to south west of the "Lower Woodland" tennis courts. It is accessible by a road leading from West Green Lake Way North, has parking available, is not visible from Green Lake Way North, and would provide a combination of meadow and woods. It would be completely fenced and gated.

**Public Input: Instances of Support/Opposition:**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Conflicts with cross-country routes	1 (staff verify this is not the case)
It's away from residences and non-dog people	1
It's on the periphery of the park--wouldn't bother anyone	1
Less potential for conflict with other users	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	✓
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

### **1B. WOODLAND PARK POTENTIAL: GREEN LAKE/AURORA**

This site is a triangular, approximately one-acre site bounded by three roadways: Aurora Avenue North, West Green Lake Way North, and the Aurora Avenue North access road. It is grassy with scattered

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trees, and would need to be completely fenced and gated because of traffic on the latter two roadways. It is slightly west of, and across Green Lake Way from, the Green Lake Rowing and Sailing Center.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition:**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Too close to an already congested park (Green Lake)	Green Lake Community Council
No conflicts with other uses	2
<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Surrounded by streets; discourages OL activity outside OLA	1
Safe for dogs	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	x
Distance from children's play areas	✓
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

**1C. WOODLAND PARK POTENTIAL: GREEN LAKE PATH PROJECT STAGING AREA**

This site is about one acre; it is located at the north end of Woodland Park along West Green Lake Way North, slightly west of the Green Lake Small Craft Center. The northern section is flat and contains some construction debris that would need to be moved; the southern section goes up the slope to about 20 feet from the horseshoe pits and the lawn bowling facility. The entire site would need to be fenced.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition:**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Too close to an already congested park (Green Lake)	Green Lake Community Council
This site has no conflicts	2

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	x
Distance from children's play areas	✓
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

## **2 & 3. BITTER LAKE RESERVOIR POTENTIAL: NORTHEAST, SOUTHEAST CORNERS**

These sites are in the northeast and southeast corners of the SPU/Water property located west of Linden Avenue North between North 138th and North 143rd. The site slopes upward to the west to the reservoir. SPU has plans to lid the reservoir. The north side of North 143rd is lined with low-to-moderate income apartment buildings and one Seattle Housing Authority building. Along Linden on the south side of North 138th is an apartment or condominium building. Along the south side of North 138th west of the condominium (North 138th does not go through for traffic between Greenwood and Linden) are single family residences. Also along the west side of the reservoir property are single family residences.

### **Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
This would be a good site	1
Most users would be local	1
Northeast corner preferred--southeast floods	1
Off leash usage would deter crime	1
Needs water	1
Needs a hedge	1
Needs fencing	1
Build a "donut" around the periphery of the reservoir	1
Needs enforcement	1
Don't want a dedicated use here	1
No buffer, no off-street parking	1
Impact on seniors walking to shopping	1
Generally opposed	1

### **Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	x
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

## **4. NORTHACRES PARK POTENTIAL**

This site is about 2.75 acres in size, and is located in the northeast corner of Northacres Park at North 130th and I-5. It is rectangular in shape, about 200' by 600'. The east boundary would be the concrete wall separating the park from the freeway, the west boundary an existing path/road that is used by service vehicles, the south boundary the vehicular turnaround and softball outfield line of the Northacres sportsfield, and the north boundary North 130th. The site would be fenced.

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**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
This is a great site	6
It's a positive use; will deter illegal activities	3
Needs good fencing to separate it from ballfield	3
<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Would there be a problem with dogs OL outside OLA?	2
Great, attractive; separate from ballfield	2
This site is needed for people	2
Erosion would not be a problem because of the woods	1
Concerned about damage to understory-gravel paths would help	1
Find other sites	1
Needs a water source	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	✓
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**5. FROULA PLAYGROUND/GREEN LAKE RESERVOIR POTENTIAL**

This site is located in the grass strip of park land immediately south of the Green Lake Reservoir, an area approximately 400' by 100' at the east end of the park. There is a small play area at the west end of the park; it is bordered on the south by residences, and is accessible from 15th Avenue Northeast.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition:**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Needs fencing to separate it from the play area	7
It's too small	5
Alternate at 75th: no access or parking, narrow street, traffic	4
Good for people who live within walking distance	3
Too close to neighbors	3
Too wet	2
Inadequate notice--no community council meetings in summer	2
Has good drainage	1
There is no established use to conflict with	1
Few children except at the play area	1
Good relief for the Volunteer Park site	1

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It's already quite noisy	1
OLA would destroy a special place	1
Existing uses are at risk	1
Fencing would cut up the park	1
<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
North site is better	1
Volunteer to help	1
Need to use criteria to select sites	1
Grass would be destroyed	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	x
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

**6. MAGNUSON PARK POTENTIAL: OLD ARCHERY RANGE**

This site, the location of the former archery range, is in the southwestern part of Magnuson Park and comprises approximately 4.6 acres. It is about 450' by 450', and lies east of 65th Avenue Northeast extended, an unopened connection to an access road that formerly connected the archery range with Magnuson Park's south entry road (Northeast 65th Street). The boundary would be drawn no farther east than the base of the hill rising to what is known as Promontory Bluff so that the wildlife potential of that area would be protected from off-leash activity. Upon delivery of the Navy property to the City, the Department intends to undertake a comprehensive review of and plan for the Sand Point/Magnuson property.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Open this in addition to, not instead of, the current site	7
Like the field	6
Need more water access	4
This site has greenbelt/wildlife issues	4
It's too near a residential area	2
Access is poor	2
This site is too small	2
This site needs fencing	2
This site has no trail	1
The beach access is bad: bulkhead	1
Old Archery Range is too isolated	1
What about lead from its days as a firing range?	1
How about the fenced area behind the commissary instead?	1

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It would need enforcement	1
Don't remove the shed; it would be a good shelter from rain	1
<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Can the Archery Range and the beach be connected?	1
How about the fenced area off (north) of main park entry?	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	x
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	x
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**7. INTERLAKEN BOULEVARD EAST POTENTIAL**

This site is Interlaken Boulevard East where it is closed to traffic between 19th Avenue East and 21st Avenue East. It is a wooded, shady ribbon that goes through the bluffs and ravines of North Capitol Hill. It is a designated bicycle route and is used daily by cyclists, walkers, runners and people walking their dogs.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
This is a designated bike route	15--one is an 80-member club
This is an Olmsted park and OLA use would damage habitat	11
This site has good points	10
There are use conflicts	7
There would be renegade dogs	3
There is limited parking	3
This conflicts with DPR/FIP reforestation project	3, including FIP
Dogs/bikes can co-exist if bikes go slowly	2
There is too much noise here already	2
Economics dictates decisions	1
I don't do the other activities; OL is my recreation	1
This is a great walking area	1
OL use would have little impact on vegetation	1
This site is good for seniors: it's flat and paved	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	x
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	x
Possible offset of illegal activities	na

Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

### **8. LOWER KINNEAR PARK POTENTIAL**

The Lower Kinnear site is located next to the pedestrian trail/service road that extends from Elliott Avenue West up the side of West Roy Street on the southwest side of Queen Anne Hill. There are several places along the 800' stretch of trail that widen out into relatively flat, meadow-like areas that could be used for off-leash activity also. The trail itself is wide enough to accommodate service vehicles, fairly steep and bordered on both sides by steep terrain that would tend to confine off-leash dogs to the linear trail. Some areas of the slopes have been degraded by foot traffic, and some areas on the west side of the road have been recently revegetated through the Department's Reforestation Program.

Public Input: instances of support/opposition

#### **Lower Kinnear Park--Potential Site**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
This is a great site--the only one in Queen Anne/Magnolia	5
OL activity might solve some security issues	4
Parking is limited	2
Safety may be an issue	2
This is an Olmsted park	1
Vegetation is sensitive; reforestation must not be disturbed	1

#### **Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	x
Available close parking	x
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	✓
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

## **9. CITY LIGHT RIGHT OF WAY #1 POTENTIAL (S. Angeline between 14th and 15th /ves. S.)**

This site is about .63 acre on City Light property. It is flat and grassy; there are transmission towers on the site, which is in a low density residential area. There is a home across 14th, one across 15th, one across S. Angeline, and one to the north of the site.

### **Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Needs to be fenced	4
Great location	2
Who pays for facilities?	2
Are there drainage problems?	1
Get signoff from adjacent neighbors	1
Too small	1
Power lines are a health issue	1
Power lines are not a health issue	1

### **Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	x
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	na
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

## **10. CITY LIGHT RIGHT OF WAY #2 POTENTIAL: (Columbia Dr. S., n. of S. Pearl, extending to Beacon Ave. S.)**

This is a 1.5 acre site on City Light property. There two transmission towers on it to which City Light would need access. It is grassy and flat-to-rolling site, and is in a low density residential area. Six private properties abut the southwest boundary of the site.

### **Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Interested if it is fenced	3
Get signoff from neighbors	2
Good for neighborhood use	1
Power lines are a health issue	1
This is a policy change for utility land use: do process first	1
Neib planning process: trail/bike path along here --NBHC	1
Great site	1

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**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	x
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	na
Low potential for spillover impacts	x

**11. CITY LIGHT RIGHT OF WAY #3 POTENTIAL: (ne Corner of S. Cloverdale and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way S.)**

This is a 1.3 acre site on City Light property. It has two transmission towers on it to which City Light would need access. It is in a low density residential area, and does not directly abut any homes. There are homes across Martin Luther King, Jr. Way S.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u># of people</u></b>
Great site if fenced	8
Where would we park?	3
Needs water	3
Power lines are an issue	3
Noisy, muddy	2
Too close to schools	1
Needs a shelter	1
Needs to be leveled	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	x
Possible offset of illegal activities	na
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	✓
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	na
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**12. EAST DUWAMISH GREENBELT/JOSE RIZAL PARK POTENTIAL**

This site comprises an open area on the slope of Jose Rizal Park and property along a strip of unused roadway adjacent to I-5, extending from I-90 on the north to South Holgate Street on the south. The site is accessible through Jose Rizal Park at the north end, and from South Holgate Street at the south end. There is a sharp topo break and a steep slope between the Jose Rizal Park play structure and the proposed OLA site. The greenbelt has trails through it. The

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Department is contacting park user and support groups for comment, and will pay particular attention to issues surrounding the play area and the picnic area.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Like this site; it's large with trails	8
Needs fencing along the freeway	5
Like that it's close to downtown	3
Would be a deterrent to crime	2
Not in greenbelt--bad precedent	2
Good site--not used for anything now	2
Too hard to enforce	2
Erosion; NPO survey shows community wants trails	1
No fencing in parks!	1
Make it bigger	1
Needs water	1
How about Jose Rizal Park behind the hospital?	1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

Distance/buffer from residences	✓
Absence of other established uses	✓
Available close parking	✓
Possible offset of illegal activities	✓
Distance from children's play areas	na
Distance from wildlife habitats	x
Absence of Department-sponsored activities	na
Low potential for spillover impacts	✓

**13. JEFFERSON PARK RESERVOIR POTENTIAL**

This 3.6 acre site is a grassy strip of land owned by the Water Division of Seattle Public Utilities. It lies west of the Jefferson Reservoir and is bordered by 15th Ave. S. on the west side. It is accessible by a service road on the north end that leads to a pump station. It measures approximately 200' by 800' and there are homes across 15th Ave. S. at a lower elevation.

**Public Input: instances of support/opposition**

<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Needs fencing	4
Undermines neighborhood planning process---NBHC (Note: a later conversation with the Vice President of NBHC revealed no objection to the proposal, pending action by SPU to cap the reservoir.)	2
Will be muddy	2
Olmsted argument is bogus	1
<b>Comment</b>	<b># of people</b>
Too close to traffic on 15th South	1

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No good place to park  
 It's an Olmsted park (Note: this is not an Olmsted park.)  
 Concerned about proximity to Mercer Middle School  
 Needs water  
 Needs turf or bark surface

1  
1  
1  
1  
1

**Criteria for a "good" site:**

**Distance/buffer from residences**  
**Absence of other established uses**  
**Available close parking**  
**Possible offset of illegal activities**  
**Distance from children's play areas**  
**Distance from wildlife habitats**  
**Absence of Department-sponsored activities**  
**Low potential for spillover impacts**

✓  
✓  
✓  
na  
na  
✓  
✓  
✓

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**DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE****CITY OF SEATTLE****PROPOSED PERMANENT DOG OFF-LEASH EXERCISE AREA**

**PROPOSER:** City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

**LEAD AGENCY:** Office of Management and Planning

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** Judy Bunnell, Director  
Office of Management and Planning  
Room 300 Municipal Building  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 684-8080

**DATE OF ISSUANCE:** August 21, 1997

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of Management and Planning (OMP) has been designated as the lead agency for purposes of SEPA for this project. On July 30, 1997, Parks Department submitted an environmental checklist that covered review of 21 potential sites (please see attached environmental checklist). The proposal would establish off-leash exercise areas (OLEAs) on certain City-owned properties where dogs would be allowed to be off-leash. The program will include mitigating measures such as procedures for limiting hours, closing problem sites, or rotating sites as necessary and will rely on dog owners and volunteer groups to provide some maintenance activities at the sites.

**Site Description**

The proposed OLEA sites are geographically dispersed in the city. Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) owns 14 sites, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) owns four sites, and City Light owns three sites. The following eight sites were part of the OLEA Pilot Program that started June 1996:

1. Golden Gardens, 8498 Scaview Pl. NW, Seattle, WA 98177. Of the 94.6 acres, about 1.2 acres have been set aside for the pilot OLEA. The site is a rolling open field with about a 10% slope surrounded by mature trees and vegetation. Adjacent hillside is designated an Environmentally Critical Area (ECA) for steep slopes. An underground stream runs through the site and daylight just southwest of the pilot OLEA.

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2. Lower Woodland, 5003 E. Green Lake Way NE, Seattle, WA 98103. This is a long, relatively narrow sloped area immediately east of Aurora Avenue. There are mature trees and established vegetation in and around the site. A picnic area is located to the south. The area is also part of a cross-country course that is regularly used for races and practices.
3. Magnuson Park, 6500 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. This is one of the most popular pilot OLEA in the City. Of the 195 acres in the park, 2.75 acres are being considered for continuation in the permanent program. The site consists of a trail and direct water access to Lake Washington. There are multiple activities along the designated off-leash trail including kite flying, bird watching, jogging, walking, and baseball.
4. Volunteer Park West, Federal Avenue East at East Prospect St.. This site is a long, narrow, flat strip of land that covers about .75 acre. It directly abuts residences to the west. Due to reported noise and odor complaints from adjacent residents, the pilot site was closed in spring 1997. It has since been reseeded to restore the grassy groundcover.
5. Volunteer Park East, 1400 East Prospect, Seattle, WA 98112. The area is a flat lawn behind the Seattle Art Museum. It covers about .86 acres of the total 45 acres of the park. In the beginning of the Pilot Program, the site was open only in the mornings. However, when the Volunteer Park West site was closed, the hours were extended from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
6. I-90 Lid Drainage Basin/"Blue Dog Pond," 1610 S. Massachusetts, Seattle, WA 98144. The 2.3 acre site is located at the northwest intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way S and S. Massachusetts St. The site is a storm-drainage catch-basin that is about 25 feet deep with sloping sides, designed to catch water from storm-water from the "100-year storm." The site is improved with a meandering walkway leading to a view platform, sculptures of various forms including a large blue dog -- hence the nickname of the park. This site has been the least used of all the pilot OLEAs.
7. Genesee Park, 4316 S. Genesee St., Seattle, WA 98144. The site is on the south section of Genesee Park. Of the total 55-acre park, the pilot OLEA covers about 2.75 acre. This site will be temporarily unavailable for off-leash use from fall 1997 to summer 1998 while a landfill-capping project is underway. The site is popular among dog owners and there has been active participation by COLA members to maintain the site.
8. Westcrest Park, 9000 8th SW, Seattle, WA 98136. Of the park's 55 acres, 2.5 acres is being considered for continuation in the permanent program. It is a strip of park land immediately south of the West Seattle reservoir and, continuing westward to include a strip of land owned by SPU.

The following are *new* candidate sites for Dog Off-Leash Exercise Area designation:

9. East Duwamish Greenbelt/Jose Rizal. The site being considered for OLEA designation includes portions of Jose Rizal Park, E. Duwamish Greenbelt, and WSDOT property. The

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site would primarily consist of an open level area and a strip of unused roadway next to Interstate 5. It would cover about 3.44 acres. Capital improvements are required to make the site accessible and prevent erosion.

10. Jefferson Park Reservoir. The site is a 1.54-acre long strip of land owned by SPU and located west of the Jefferson Park Reservoir. 13th Ave S to the west and a single-family house to the south border it. As part of the neighborhood planning process, the site has been identified for local park use.
11. City Light R.O.W #1. The .80 acre site is in open, slightly rolling power line right-of-way located at S. Angeline St. between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. It is surrounded by single family houses on three sides. The groundcover is mostly covered with turf.
12. City Light R.O.W #2. The 1.8-acre site is in open, slightly rolling power line right-of-way located along Columbia Dr. S, north of S. Pearl St. A topographic break separates the site from S. Beacons Ave to the east. Single family residents abut the site to the north and to the south. Across Columbia Dr. S. is a P-Patch.
13. City Light R.O.W #3. The 2.0-acre site is in open, flat power line right-of-way located at the SW corner of S. Cloverdale St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way South. To the north is one of Seattle's largest P-Patches and to the west are underutilized parcels and a few single family houses separated by a topographic break. The MLK Way S forms the boundary to the east.
14. Interlaken East. The site is a portion of Interlaken Boulevard closed to traffic between 19th Ave E and 21st Ave E. The 2-acre paved roadway is flat and meanders as it follows the contour of the slope. The slopes on either side of the road are steep and covered with native vegetation. In 1986 landslides forced major portions of the Boulevard to be closed to motor vehicles.
15. Magnuson Park (former) Archery Site. The site is a former archery range and covers about 4.0-acre. It is flat to rolling area that is terraced in two main levels with a slight slope in between. To the north is 65th Ave NE and to east is UW Sandpoint Student Housing.
16. Greenlake Reservoir/Froula Playground. The area is a flat strip of .6-acre land located immediately south of Green Lake Reservoir. To the west of the site is Froula Playground. Single family houses border the site to the south. The site is currently being used as a small neighborhood open space.
17. Woodland Park Alternate Sites. There are three alternate sites in Woodland Park and each site covers about 1 acre. Three roadways including Aurora Ave N to the west, W. Greenlake to the east, bound the northernmost site. It is a triangular, flat site. Across the roadway to the south is another OLEA site under consideration. This one has been used as a staging area for construction of the Greenlake Path. Some leveling and removal of construction debris

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may be necessary. The third site is adjacent to the tennis courts. It is rolling terrain and slopes about 15% down to the tennis courts. This is the only Woodland Park alternative site with direct access to parking spaces.

18. Northacres. The proposed site is about 1.4 acres in size. It is located in the northeast corner of Northacres Park at NE 130th St. and 1st Avenue NE. It is fairly flat with existing trails through a wooded area. To the east is Interstate 5 and to the south is a sports field.
19. & 20. Bitter Lake Reservoir. The sites are located along the eastern portion of the Bitter Lake Reservoir on Linden Ave N between N 143<sup>rd</sup> St. and 138<sup>th</sup> St. Each of the site is about .34 acres. Site #19 is located northeast of the reservoir in a flat area. Linden Ave N separates the site from the mobile home park to the east. Site #20 is a narrow strip of land located southeast of the reservoir. It slopes slightly to the south. Across a driveway to the south, is a multifamily development complex.
21. Kinnear Park, Lower. This 2.0-acre site is located just below Kinnear Park at the intersection of West Mercer Place and Elliott Ave W. The potential OLEA site would consist of the service road that extends from Elliott Ave W up the side of W. Roy St. for about 800 feet. Slides have occurred along the steep sides of the road and with community support, the area has been replanted with young trees.

### **PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION**

The proposal is the establishment of permanent dog OLEAs at some or all of the sites identified above. It would be implemented through the passage of a City Council ordinance amending the existing Seattle Municipal Code to allow owners to exercise their dogs off-leash within these areas.

### **ANALYSIS**

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from these OLEA sites was made in the environmental checklist dated July 30, 1997. The information in the environmental checklist, supplemental information submitted by DPR, data gathered from last year's environmental review process and subsequent SEPA appeals process that addressed a pilot version of this same program, visits to all 21 sites, and consultation with DPR, Animal Control Division, and Health Department form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The proposal was analyzed according to the process described at SMC Section 25.05.330, for short and long-term impacts on the elements of the environment identified in SMC Section 25.05.444. Elements not discussed were determined unlikely to be adversely impacted by the project. For the 21 sites being considered for this project, it appears that the project is unlikely to adversely impact several elements of the environment. For elements where the proposal would have impacts, OMP does not regard any of the adverse impacts to be "significant" as defined at SMC Section 25.05.794.

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### Construction Impacts

For those sites that are established as permanent OLEAs, construction would consist of installing signs and fences. If the East Duwamish Greenbelt site is selected, construction there would consist of building stairs, along with some filling and drainage improvements. Compliance with existing codes and ordinances should mitigate any impacts from this work.

### General Operating Impacts and Mitigating Measures

The OLEA Pilot Program has shown some adverse environmental impacts with respect to earth, odor, noise, plants and animals, displacement of other recreational uses, traffic and parking, and aesthetics.

**Impacts on earth.** Prior to the Pilot Program, all sites were covered with grass. During the course of the Pilot Program, heavy animal and human use has worn away the grass and resulted in some erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the permanent OLEA will include a monitoring program for excessive wear, a set of actions to restore the turf, and will use other more durable and less maintenance-intensive surfaces. The department will have the authority to close and rotate the sites if necessary, and locate permanent OLEA to avoid any steep slope. Bioremediation measures in the form of vegetative buffers or swales will be considered to reduce the potential for runoff and erosion. With these mitigating measures in place, the impacts on the soil and potential erosion are not considered significant.

**Impacts on odor.** Under Seattle ordinances, dog owners are required to pick up and properly dispose of their dog's feces. Dog feces that are not collected could result in increased odors. Because of increased use of these areas over the past year, there has been the possibility of dog feces accumulating on these sites. Grounds crew, however, have noted no noticeable increases in odor from dog feces, noting that most OLEA users pick up, bag and dispose properly of feces.

To mitigate possible impacts on odor, the City has agreements with COLA, a citizen-volunteer group, to assist in the maintenance of each site. Plastic bags and garbage cans have been placed at convenient locations at the pilot OLEA to provide for the disposal of feces. Signs reminding owners of their responsibility and peer pressure have also contributed to enforcing the City's "scoop" law.

**Impacts on air quality.** Although no quantifiable data is available, DPR staff have not observed excessive volumes of traffic near the pilot sites, and there is no reason to believe that automobiles going to the OLEAs could create significant air quality impacts. Using healthy, dense ground covers and/or wood chips at heavily used sites in the future will keep down the dust that might otherwise occur in dry periods.

**Impacts on water quality.** Of the eight pilot sites, Blue Dog Pond, Magnuson Park and Golden Gardens are areas where possible water contamination is an issue. The pilot program was to

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have included a monitoring program to test water quality. However, DPR staff during the pilot program conducted no water quality monitoring. Based upon the observations of the Parks maintenance crew, dog feces have been routinely picked up and not allowed to accumulate, so it appeared that the potential for water contamination was unlikely; OMP's site visits confirmed that there was no accumulation of feces that could lead to contamination of nearby water bodies. OMP also noted that at Golden Gardens straw bales had been placed at the low end of the OLEA to trap any solid material washed downhill by runoff.

Without factual data on water quality, it is not possible to determine precise water quality impacts. However, the potential source of contamination (accumulation of feces) does not appear to be occurring. With the mitigating measures cited below for sites at Golden Gardens, Blue Dog Pond and Magnuson Park, impacts on water quality are not expected to be significant.

*Impacts on environmental health.* At the beginning of the pilot program, concerns were raised that the number of dog bites and zoonotic diseases would increase. At the eight pilot sites, there have been two bites and one vicious incident reported during the course of the pilot program. One bite occurred in the Lower Woodland OLEA and the other incidents occurred outside the Golden Gardens OLEA.

According to Animal Control Division the number of reported bites in city parks has decreased slightly from 11 bites in 1995 to 8 bites in 1996. To date, there have been 5 bites in 1997. According to the Health Department, no increased in zoonotic diseases have been reported that are associated with the Pilot Program. Based on this information, the impact to environmental health is not considered significant.

*Impacts on noise.* Dog barks may be irritating to other park users or nearby residences. There was an increase in noise complaints for the Volunteer West and Genesee sites for the first six months of the pilot program. However, over the later half of the year, the Volunteer West site was closed, and the number of complaints at Genesee has decreased. By limiting the hours of operation, making sure that the permanent sites are away from residences, and establishing adequate buffers from other uses, the impact on noise is not considered to be significant.

*Impacts on plants and animals.* Dogs running off-leash was expected to impact existing animal populations by chasing, or in some cases catching animals. This has been reported to have occurred to a limited extent. In some of the more heavily used pilot sites, existing vegetation has been destroyed within the boundaries of the OLEA. However, no endangered or threatened species exist in any of the pilot or new candidate sites. The animal and plant species that have been driven away or eliminated at some sites could return if and when use as OLEA is discontinued. As a result, impacts on plants and animals are not considered significant.

*Displacement of other recreation uses.* The Pilot Program anticipated that other park users who may want to avoid dogs off-leash would be impacted. Site observations have confirmed that the pilot OLEAs have effectively displaced other informal recreational activities that used to occur on the OLEA sites. Displacement of other recreational use is an unavoidable adverse impact.

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At the time the Pilot Program, people felt that there was a potential that dogs would "spill over" into areas not designated for off-leash use. Observations by Parks maintenance crew indicate that at some of the sites the OLEAs have been effectively expanded by dog owners who release their dogs in parking lots and allow them to run free to the designated area. This displaces other recreation uses from the larger area.

Enforcement of the City's leash law is provided by Animal Control. Data from Animal Control staff shows that the number of citations in parks has increased over the past three years. With continued enforcement of the leash law in non-OLEAs, clear signs explaining the rules of behavior for use of the OLEAs and fencing of the OLEAs, impact on surrounding uses is not considered significant.

*Impacts on traffic and parking.* Traffic was expected to increase at these sites, especially at the time most people would probably be using the areas for off-leash activities -- early morning, evening, and weekends. Based on observations by maintenance crew on the sites, it appears that congested streets or lack of parking have not been problems at the pilot sites. However, no data on traffic volumes or parking is available.

A premise of the pilot program was that by opening several sites, the City would lessen and disperse the vehicle miles driven by dog owners using parks to exercise their dogs off-leash. Another premise was that the number and geographic distribution of the pilot sites through the City would allow some users to walk to the sites from surrounding neighborhoods. To the extent that dog owners already use some of these sites, their visits to these locations will not generate new vehicle trips. The impact on traffic and parking is not considered significant.

*Impacts on Aesthetics.* For the permanent program, fencing will be designed and constructed to be aesthetically acceptable. The type of fencing that would be used is similar to the split-rail fence constructed in Golden Gardens OLEA. Informational kiosks approximately 5'6" above ground level will provide information on designated OLEA boundaries, rules and regulations. Plastic bags and trashcans will be conveniently located at each OLEA for disposal of feces. Loss of turf in some of the pilot sites has changed their appearance. This change is not irreparable and is not considered significant.

*Mitigating Measures for all sites:* As with the Pilot Program, all areas should be continually monitored and, if necessary, adversely impacted areas can be roped off or their use restricted to allow for regrowth and reseeding. Clear signs, which describes allowable behaviors at these areas and describes the boundary of the OLEA should be placed at each site. DPR should have the authority to allow any needed course-correction, such as rotation of sites, restriction of hours or even closures of a site if conditions warrant. Permanent site boundaries will be located to avoid wildlife habitat, residential areas and other established uses of parks. In addition, the following specific mitigating measures should be in place as part of the permanent OLEA Program prior to establishing and opening the sites on a permanent basis:

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1. OLEAs should be located no less than 50 feet from a stream such as Golden Gardens. When a site is near a stream, straw bales and/or filter fences shall be placed in order to prevent eroded soils and contamination from entering the stream.
2. Before OLEAs open for permanent use, the DPR should collect baseline information for water quality in those areas where possible water contamination is an issue. Additional testing should be done after six months and one year of operation.
3. OLEAs should not directly abut residences. There should be some form of a transition between residences and the site such as a topographic break, vegetation, or a street. Should an OLEA directly abut a residential area without adequate buffer, the site boundary should generally be located 50 feet or more from residential property lot lines.
4. The OLEA should be completely fenced if there is no other natural buffer or barrier to separate the site from other uses, particularly of park lands.
5. Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) and the City of Seattle should enter into an agreement whereby COLA will agree to provide regular volunteer maintenance at each site.
6. Animal control should continue enforcement of the scoop and leash laws in and near the permanent OLEA to minimize the accumulation of feces and contain the other impacts within the defined OLEA boundaries.
7. COLA, DPR, and Animal Control staff should work together on a permanent basis to address problems that may arise in the areas of enforcement, maintenance, necessary site closures and other issues.
8. After two years of operation, DPR should evaluate the program and make recommendations to the Executive and Council whether to maintain, change or discontinue the program.

After the experience of the Pilot Program on the eight sites, the Parks Department has made adjustments when an issue came up by either closing off a section of the site, closing the site entirely, limiting the hours, or other actions that deal with adverse impacts on the environment. The additional mitigating measures above would be included in the OLEA Program should the program become permanent.

#### Site Specific Impacts and Mitigation

*Golden Gardens.* There could be small-scale transport of dog feces into the stream but the amount is unknown. The pilot project was to include a monitoring program for the water quality of the stream, but this monitoring did not occur. During the course of the pilot year, however, observations from the grounds maintenance crew saw little dog feces on the OLEA. Other mitigating measures also lessened the potential for contamination including setting the site

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boundary back from the stream, placing straw bales at the bottom of the slope to capture runoff sediments. The lower section of the site still is covered with grassy groundcover that also captures potential contaminated sediments from runoff.

The groundcover has been substantially worn away from heavy use, especially in this unirrigated site. Prior to permanently establishing the site for off-leash activities, a hardier groundcover should be installed to withstand heavy use. Fencing around trees within the OLEA could prevent damage to roots where turf and soil have been worn away. The adjacent hillside bluff is an environmentally critical steep slope, which has been prone to slide in the past. The site boundary has been located to avoid these slopes.

*Lower Woodland Park.* The groundcover has been substantially worn away from heavy use in this unirrigated site. The site used to be a grassy hill. Now, it is compacted dirt. Established tree roots have been exposed and appear stressed. Since the site is located on the same route as a cross-country course, some conflicts between the off-leash dogs and joggers have occurred. There has been one reported dog bite at this site over the course of the Pilot Program.

If this site is to be continued in the permanent program, it is recommended that the site be reseeded with a hardy groundcover that can withstand heavy use and that fencing be constructed around exposed tree roots. Regulations should be strictly enforced during cross-country races.

*Magnuson Park.* The beach site is heavily used and erosion has occurred at the water access areas. Volunteers have put down Geo-Textile fabric and have spread sand at the beach access point, and spread wood chips along the west arm of the trail route. To further mitigate impacts, the lakefront could be periodically re-supplied with sand and the steep slope could be replaced with boulders to prevent further erosion, or logs could be placed along the waterfront to protect the sandy soil below.

Reports of conflicting uses have occurred at this site from kite flyers, walkers, bird watchers, and joggers, as some dog owners allow their dogs to run off leash outside the designated area. Animal Control should continue to enforce the leash law at this site to prevent the displacement of these other recreational uses.

The way this OLEA site is laid out, dogs need to be leashed to cross the access road to reach the waterfront site from the trail. Compliance with this need to leash across the road has been a problem during the pilot. Better signs showing the limits of the OLEA should be installed to help users understand the limits. It may be necessary to separate the water access with a fence from the rest of the OLEA to ensure that dog owners adhere to the leash law in the non-OLEA.

*Volunteer Park West.* The site is a narrow strip of land on the west boundary of the park. No topographic break or adequate distance separates this site from the adjacent houses to the west. Due to multiple reports of noise and odor caused by off-leash dogs, the site was closed in spring 1997. The groundcover has been reseeded to restore the groundcover.

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**Volunteer East.** The site is behind the Seattle Art Museum. The area has been located in a less-used area of the park. Previous use of the site has been public open space, informal activity and passive recreation. The use of the OLEA site has been limited to daytime and evening hours to avoid noise impacts to surrounding residences during early and late hours. Conflict with children playing at the playground 100 yards away has not been an issue. Heavy use has worn away parts of the groundcover. As a mitigating measure, DPR should use a more durable type of groundcover to withstand heavy dog and human use. It is recommended that physical structures such as fencing, installed kiosks, trashcans, and signs be designed to blend with the historic character of the site.

**I-90 Lid Drainage Basin/"Blue Dog Pond."** This site is a landscaped storm water catch basin owned by the Seattle Public Utilities with no known public recreational activity. The concern has been the possibility of feces accumulating in this site that could create contamination when the site floods and then drains to the Duwamish River. However, the site has not been used heavily by dog owners, and staff observations indicate no accumulation of feces.

As part of the Pilot Program, the Drainage and Wastewater agreed to monitor the water quality of flowing from the site. Since the site has experienced little off-leash activity and it has not experienced any floods, water quality testing was postponed. As part of the permanent program, however, the water quality should be monitored.

**Genesee Park.** This site is a former landfill site. Use of the site prior to the pilot included informal active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity. There are houses to the east but the proposed site is located on a rise above the street level that offers a natural barrier. Topography, which could be enhanced with some fencing, also separates the site area from the path to the west. The concern from the surrounding neighborhood has been the potential conflict with games on the adjacent soccer field. Over the course of the pilot program, however, no conflict has been reported between soccer players and off-leash dogs. The site is scheduled to be closed for about one year for a project to cap the landfill. The open heavily used area has been covered with wood chips to prevent soil compaction and erosion.

**Westcrest Park.** Because of its size and impermeable construction, the reservoir at this site is in no danger from any runoff leaving the OLEA. Over the course of the pilot year, some impact to the groundcover has occurred but it is not considered significant.

**East Duwamish Greenbelt.** The site is generally located on the flat open areas of the adjacent greenbelt area. There is little development of this Greenbelt and relatively little use. Some of the area has slope ranging from about 10% to about 40%. The steep slope areas would be developed with access trail to the flat service road at the bottom of the slope paralleling Interstate 5. Improvements would require stairs and drainage improvements. Fencing to restrain movement of off-leash dogs would prevent erosion of the adjoining steep slope areas.

**Jefferson Park Reservoir.** Open heavily used areas would be covered with wood chips to prevent soil compaction and erosion. There is some seepage out of the west slope of the site and

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these areas would be avoided. The southern boundary of the site should be at least 50 feet from the adjacent single-family house to the south. A parking lot would be created for users of OLEA.

**City Light R.O.W. #1.** The site is located in a low-density residential neighborhood. It is separated from the residential neighborhood with streets on three sides. The area is flat and covered with turf. If this site were to become a permanent OLEA, the heavily used areas should be covered with wood chips to prevent soil compaction and erosion. To avoid noise impacts to the residents, it is recommended that the site be located at least 50 feet from the property lot line and hours restricted.

**City Light R.O.W. #2.** The site is located right below Beacon Avenue South in a low-density residential neighborhood. It is flat and grassy. If the site is chosen as an OLEA, heavily used areas would be covered with wood chips to prevent soil compaction and erosion. To avoid noise impacts to the surrounding residents, the site should be located at least 50 feet from any residential property lot line and hours of use should be restricted.

**City Light R.O.W. #3.** The candidate site is buffered from the adjacent the single-family houses to the west by a topographic break and vegetation. To the north is one of Seattle's largest P-Patch. To the east is MLKJ Way S. Like other sites, there is a possibility that the existing grassy groundcover would give way to soil compaction. To prevent this compaction, the site should be covered with wood chips or some other similar material.

**Interlaken East.** Potential impacts to this site include the possibility that dogs could run and destroy established, native vegetation located on either side of the closed road. There is also a potential for conflicts with other users because the nature of the walk is meandering and owners could lose site of their dogs within 100 feet or so. To address these possible impacts, fencing should be constructed to restrain movement of off-leash dogs to the paved roadway and signs would be located to warn other users that this site is an OLEA.

**Magnuson Park Archery Site.** This former archery site is separated from other established park uses, is spacious enough to allow for multiple activities, includes two relatively separate open spaces which would allow DPR to close one site for restoration while keeping the second one open, and it is improved with a shelter where owners may socialize. Limited available parking at this site means that OLEA users would compete with the residents and visitors at the adjacent multifamily student housing across the street for parking spaces.

**Froula Playground.** This site could cause impacts to the adjacent Froula playground to the west and single-family houses to the south because of noise, odor, and dogs off-leash outside the OLEA. Measures to mitigate these possible impacts include locating the site at least 50 feet from residences, completely fencing the area, enforcement of the leash laws and voluntary clean up of feces.

**Woodland Park/alternate sites.** Possible impacts associated with these two sites include degradation to the existing groundcover and displacement of existing informal recreational uses.

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To mitigate these potential impacts, DPR should determine an appropriate groundcover that would withstand heavy use, fence the OLEA, and set up clear signs. The northernmost site may impact the "entrance" aesthetics of entering Greenlake from Aurora Avenue.

*Northacres.* As a trail, if this site is not completely enclosed, it is likely that other recreational uses in this wooded portion of the park would be displaced. The existing trail already consists of wood chips, which is an appropriate groundcover for off-leash activities.

*Bitter Lake Reservoir (#1 & #2).* These sites are small, and heavy use by dogs and human could quickly erode the groundcover. Covering the sites with wood chips could prevent soil compaction. Limiting the hours of use, coupled with the distance from nearby residences, should help mitigate noise impacts on those residences.

*Kinnear Park.* The candidate OLEA would utilize open flat areas and the gentler grade of the existing service road. Surrounding this site are steep slopes that have recently experienced slide activities and have been newly re-forested. To protect the steep slopes from erosion, fencing should be constructed to restrain movement of off-leash dogs.

#### **DECISION**

The responsible official, on behalf of the lead agency, using a completed environmental checklist and other information made this decision after review on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C), including the requirement to inform the public agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

☒ **Determination of Non-Significance.** This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.C.030 2c.

#### **APPEAL**

You may appeal this determination by sending a written notice of appeal, detailing the reasons why you believe this determination is in error. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Send the appeal notice to the City of Seattle Hearing Examiner; Room 1320; 618 Second Avenue; Seattle, WA 98104. The appeal must be filed by 5:00 p.m., September 4, 1997.

Contact the office of the Hearing Examiner at 684-0521 to read or ask about procedures for SEPA appeals.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### **Purpose of Checklist.**

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### **Instructions for Applicants.**

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### **Use of Checklist for Nonproject Proposals.**

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR  
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**A. BACKGROUND**

**A1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

City of Seattle Dog Off-Leash Exercise Areas (OLEA)

**A2. Name of applicant:**

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

**A3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

100 Dexter Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98109

Contact person: Dewey Potter, 684-7187

**A4. Date checklist prepared: July 28, 1997**

**A5. Agency requesting checklist: Office of Management and Planning**

**A6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

By the end of the pilot period on September 22, 1997, the City Council will make a decision on whether to discontinue the program, to continue it as is or to continue it in some configuration other than that of the pilot. A series of three public workshops were held on July 14, 15 and 16, 1997 to exchange information about experiences with what has worked and not worked at each pilot site. The Board of Park Commissioners will make a recommendation to the Superintendent and the Superintendent will submit a recommendation and draft legislation to the City Council by August 25. The permanent sites will be selected, boundaries defined and a work plan completed that outlines site preparation work that will be needed for a permanent off leash program.

**A7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

By August 25, 1997, the Department will submit a recommendation and draft legislation to the City Council on a configuration of some number of off leash sites, with mitigating measures, for their consideration. The recommendation will include a process and procedure for limiting hours at or closing problem sites, and for considering other City-owned sites.

The successful pilot has generated requests to open additional areas for off leash activity. Additional sites will be considered to add to the number of existing sites and/or replace a site that has conflicts with other users or needs to be rotated in order to restore turf or other features.

**A8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

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The Department prepared an environmental checklist in 1995 in anticipation of the pilot program, and another environmental checklist in June 1997 in contemplation of a three-month extension of the pilot period. Seattle Public Utilities Department, Materials Testing Lab, report on borings and soil conditions pertaining to the Genesee Park Capping Project 1997. Geotechnical report for Kinnear Park following slides in 1997

Interlaken Boulevard: A Renewed Vision for Seattle's Urban Wilderness, Programming Study 1986

- A9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

At Jefferson and Bitter Lake Reservoirs, future proposed plans to cover the reservoirs and community plans for park and open space improvement and other factors may change how Jefferson Park and Bitter Lake are currently used. The community at Jefferson Park is also working towards development of a master plan for the whole park including the reservoir.

- A10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

Magnuson Park Archery Range: vehicle access and parking off of the NE 65th South entry road to Magnuson Park may involve some neighborhood/ property issues. (agreement between the City/Navy/US Biological Service). Depending on Department recommendations, a use agreement may be necessary between the City and the Washington State Department of Transportation for joint use of their right-of-way at the East Duwamish Site.

Seattle Municipal Code Amendments of Parks with master plans that would be amended by these proposals include Magnuson, Volunteer, Genesee, Westcrest and Interlaken, and any affected parks' master plans.

City of Seattle, Water Department for permission to allow parking near pump station and road access for the Jefferson Park Reservoir site. Also, there are additional areas being proposed as alternate sites at Bitter Lake and Green Lake Reservoirs that would involve agreements with Water Department and moving the existing fencing.

Maintenance and/or use agreements between Parks Department and City Light, Water Department for use of City Light Right of Way and Water Department properties.

- A11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the site of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

This proposal would allow off leash dogs in certain sites and provide on a permanent basis a new recreation activity for Seattle's dog owners who have requested places where they may walk, exercise, socialize, train and play with their dogs off-leash. The group of 21 sites (including the pilot sites) are geographically dispersed throughout the city. The sites were developed cooperatively by DPR staff, City Council staff, and staff from SPU/Water and City Light. Of the 21, 13 are in parks (including seven of the eight pilot sites); four are on SPU property (one on Drainage and Wastewater property and three on Water property); and three are on City Light property. The activity will be the same at each location - within the confines of a delineated, fenced and properly-signed area dogs will be allowed off-leash to walk, run, play, exercise, train and to socialize with their owners/handlers and with other dogs. Seattle dog owners state that these sites are for their benefit as well as their dogs; they maintain that their activity with their dogs is a activity heretofore unrecognized as valid.

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In the eyes of the many users of the pilot sites, the pilot program is a huge success. The sites have become gathering places for many dog owners, and there is a sense of community and fellowship that has evolved around this activity. The support for the project expressed during the pilot period warrants consideration of a permanent program, designed to include sites which serve the dog-owning public to the extent feasible, and designed to have the least impacts possible.

The permanent project, like the pilot project, would have as integral components the following:

1. a monitoring and evaluation program, beginning with a baseline study prior to the opening of any sites, to measure existing uses and conditions, including data on frequency of use for on and off leash activity.
2. strict rules posted at each site stating as a minimum:
  - owners are liable for any damage or injury inflicted by their dogs
  - dogs must be properly licensed and vaccinated
  - no aggressive behavior, biting, fighting or excessive barking
  - dogs must be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the off-leash site
  - owners must have a visible leash at all times
  - owners must clean up and properly dispose of any feces left by their dogs
  - female dogs in estrus are not allowed
  - dog owner or handler must be with dog at all times
  - dog owners must comply with all park rules and relevant parking information
3. a signed agreement between the Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) and the City of Seattle, providing for regular volunteer maintenance and other labor at each site; for fundraising to provide supplies for the off-leash areas; to assist Animal Control in providing education for dog owners; and in assisting in troubleshooting problems which may arise during the pilot phase;
4. management by Animal Control, to ensure maximum compliance with regulations, with Animal Control closely with Seattle Parks and Recreation Department on maintenance and disposal issues, and any problems which might arise;
5. flexibility to allow any needed course-corrections, such as fencing off areas of extreme wear, rotation of sites, restriction of hours or even closure of a site if conditions warrant.

The pilot project allowed for the accumulation of information to make accurate predictions about long term impacts on the environment, wildlife habitat, total numbers of park users. The data accumulated during the pilot phase helped determine whether off-leash activity should continue beyond the pilot phase.

6. other mitigating measures deemed appropriate by the Department in the package of recommendations and legislation it will send to the City Council by August 25.

The 21 sites identified for potential inclusion in the permanent project are shown in the attached site maps, and described as follows:

**Pilot Sites:**

1. Golden Gardens (NW Seattle) - Of the 94.60 acres in this park, only the upper meadow area, approximately 425' x 125', is being proposed for continuation in the permanent project.



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2. Lower Woodland Park (north central Seattle) - The entire Woodland Park contains 187.9 acres, of which 90 acres is Woodland Park Zoo; Lower Woodland contains the remaining 97.9 acres, 74.5 acres of which is the park proper and the remaining acreage, playfield on the far east side of the park. The proposed OLEA site is approximately seven acres, a long, relatively-narrow grassy sloped area immediately east of Aurora Avenue, south of the north-end parking and picnic area, north of the southernmost service road across Aurora which connects Lower Woodland with the zoo, and west of the north-south bike route through the park, is being proposed for this project. Lower Woodland is a popular area with Seattle dog owners.
3. Magnuson Park (NE Seattle) - Of the 195 acres at Magnuson Park, the areas selected for this proposal consist of (a) a walk along the boundary between Magnuson park and property belonging to the Naval Air Station (NAS) and to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), continue into the yard area adjacent to the Parks Department's maintenance shed, and (b) waterfront access adjacent to the NOAA property. The boundary walk measures approximately 3,000' length, 8-10' width; the yard adjacent to the maintenance shed is about 1-2 acres; the waterfront access is a strip approximately 80' long and 15' wide. (Note that this waterfront access is about 1000' to 1200' north of the current swimming beach.)

The boundary walk and the beach access are not contiguous; a stretch of the Magnuson Park pathway/service access road divides the two off-leash areas. This roadway will be on-leash. Magnuson Park is presently the most heavily-used site within the city for dog-related activities.

- 4 & 5. Volunteer Park (Capitol Hill, central Seattle) - Of the 45 acres within this park, two sites are being proposed for OLEAs. The first is a long strip (approximately 800' x 15') bordering Federal Ave. E. from the tennis courts near Galer Ave. East moving southerly to Prospect Ave. East, and west of the service roadway and large shrubbery is being proposed for an OLEA. It is bisected nearly mid-point at East Highland Street by an on-leash area to allow unfettered access to the park by nearby residents.

The second site, the lawn down the slope and behind the Seattle Asian Art Museum, is being proposed for morning use only, from park opening to 9 am. This site measures about 250' x 150'. It runs from the D. Carter sculpture on the south toward but not including the walkway on the north. Volunteer Park has several active "puppy clubs", groups of dog owners who regularly meet to exercise their dogs and socialize with each other.

In July, the Federal Ave. site was closed as a result of neighborhood impacts and loss of turf. Consequently, the hours were extended at the museum site to 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

6. I-90 Lid Drainage Basin/"Blue Dog Pond" (south central Seattle) - A Seattle Engineering Dept. storm-drainage catch-basin, one block square and about 25' deep with sloping sides, designed to catch water from storm-water from the "100-year flood". The site is landscaped with metal art sculptures, which appear to be designed to measure the depth of any water in the basin; on the west side is a large metal sculpture of a blue dog, hence the unofficial name "Blue Dog Pond". There is no known current dog-related or other recreational activity there at present. A mid-summer 1997 site visit showed grass over three feet high.
7. Genesee Park (southeast Seattle) - This 55-acre multi-section park in SE Seattle is popular with dog owners in the area. The dog off-leash area is in the northeast corner of the south section of the park, running parallel to Genesee and 46th Avenue South. This site, about 300' x 400', was unused for any activity before the pilot program; it contained mounds of fill dirt designed to eventually level it out and fill in spots where water accumulates during the winter months. It will be temporarily unavailable for off-leash use Fall '97-Summer '98 while a landfill capping project is underway there.
8. Westcrest Park (southwest Seattle) - Within the 93.20 acre park a strip of park land immediately south of the West Seattle reservoir, and a sweep down a hillside north of the service roadway, comprising about 2 acres, and a long service road (800' long, 20' wide) on Water Department property comprising the west border of the

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reservoir. This generally under-utilized park is growing in popularity with dog owners. Seattle Police Department has indicated an OLEA designation might help draw in enough positive activity to help drive out the illicit activity which is currently fairly prevalent at Westcrest.

**Potential sites:**

1. **East Duwamish Greenbelt** - Portions of the Jose Rizal Park and the adjoining East Duwamish Greenbelt are being proposed as off leash areas. An open level area and a strip of unused roadway adjacent to I-5 included in the proposal, extending from I-90 south to South Holgate Street. There is a sharp topo break and a steep slope up to play structure. There are slopes of 40 degrees or more and some gentle slope areas. The site is accessible through Jose Rizal Park and potentially from South Holgate Street. The greenbelt is a large area with trails and an off leash area could offset illicit activity. The upper portion of Jose Rizal Park has a picnic area, play area and restroom.
2. **Jefferson Park Reservoir** - The proposed site is a grassy strip of land owned by SPU/Water Department immediately west of the Jefferson Reservoir and bordered by 13th Ave. S. on the west. The area is accessible by a service road to a pump station. The area measures approximately 800' by 200', and is located in a low density residential area. The Beacon Hill neighborhood planning group has shown interest in this site for local park use; so introduction of off-leash activities would need to coordinate with their process.
3. **City Light R.O.W. #1** - The .63 acre site is on City Light property at S. Angeline St. between 14th and 15th Avenue S. The area is a flat grassy area with little or no maintenance. There are no transmission line towers on the site, which is located in a low density residential area.
4. **City Light R.O.W. #2** - The 1.5 acre site is on City Light property at Columbia Dr. S., north of S. Pearl St., extending to Beacon Ave. S. City Light will require continued access to two transmission towers. The site is a flat and rolling grassy area, and is located in low density residential area.
5. **City Light R.O.W. #3** - The 1.3 acre site is located at the SW corner of S. Cloverdale St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. City Light will require access to two transmission towers. The site is located in low density residential area.
6. **Interlaken East** - A cool, shady ribbon which traverses ravines and bluffs of North Capitol Hill. In 1982, Interlaken Boulevard was designated an historic landmark by the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board which cited its former role as part of the Lake Washington Bicycle Path. In 1986, landslides and subsidence of the roadway forced major portions of the Boulevard to be closed to motor vehicles. The Boulevard is traveled in a linear or sequential manner - starting at one end or the other.
7. **Magnuson Park Archery Site/Alternate Site** - The site of the former archery range, in the southwestern part of existing Magnuson Park, is approximately 4.6 acres, 450' by 450'. It is east of 65th Avenue Northeast extended, an unopened connection to an access road that formerly connected the archery range with Magnuson Park's south entry road (NE 65th Street). The archery range activity has been discontinued for several years, and some small volunteer trees and plants have begun to be established on the unused site. The boundary of the proposed off-leash area would be drawn no further east than the base of the hill rising to what is known as Promontory Bluff, so that the wildlife habitat potential of that area would be protected from any off-leash dog activity. Within the archery range area there are two fairly distinct "lanes," either or both of which could be included in the off-leash area. The dual lanes, each about 150' wide, also have potential to be alternate off-leash sites that could be "rotated" to allow recovery of vegetation in the adjacent lane.
8. **Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir** - Within the small narrow grass strip of park land immediately south of the Green Lake Reservoir, an area approximately 400' by 100' at the east end of the park is being discussed.

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as a potential off leash area. The park contains a small play area and is used as small neighborhood open space. The park is bordered on the south by residences. The area is accessible from 15th Ave. N. E.

9. **Woodland Park Alternate Sites** - The entire Woodland park contains 187.9 acres, of which 90 acres is Woodland Park Zoo; Lower Woodland contains the remaining 97.9 acres, 74.5 acres of which is the park proper and the remaining acreage is playfield on the far east side of the park. The proposed OLEA sites are approximately three acres, divided into three  $\pm$  one acres parcel, on the far east side near to the playfields. All three sites are between West Green Lake Way N. and Aurora Avenue N. and across from Green Lake and the Green Lake Rowing Center. The northernmost site is in the triangle formed by three roadways, West Green Lake Way N., Aurora Avenue N., and the Aurora Avenue N. access road. The middle site is located in an area recently used as the staging area for Green Lake Path Construction Project. It is between West Green Lake Way N., the Aurora Avenue N. access road, the Lawn Bowling Center, and a parking lot. The southern most site is adjacent to the northern tennis courts, south of the northeast corner park access road, and within a slightly wooded area.
10. **Northacres** - This proposed site is in the northeast corner of Northacres Park at North 130th Street and I-5. It is approximately 2.75 acres in size, roughly rectangular in shape and 200' by 600' in dimensions. The east boundary would be the high concrete wall that marks the I-5 boundary in that location, and the west boundary would be an existing path/road that has been used for service vehicle access. The southern boundary would be the vehicular turnaround and softball outfield line of the sportsfield area at Northacres. The extensive dimensions of the proposed off-leash area suggest that half of it could be used while the other half recovers, using rotation of the two adjacent halves as a way to allow vegetation to get re-established if it is excessively worn by off-leash activity. The need for this might be determined after the site has been established, to see if the intensity of use warrants that method of site management.
- 11 & 12. **Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2** - Both sites are located on SPU/Water property between N. 143rd St., Linden Ave. N. and N. 138th St.
  - Site #1 is on the north east corner of the property and is approximately 400' by 200'. The site is in a flat worn grassy area.
  - Site #2 is located on the southeast corner of the property and is approximately 400' by 200' and is bordered by the Interurban Trail right of way and N. 138th St.
13. **Kinnear Park, Lower** - This site could be as much as 800' in length, based on the pedestrian trail/service road that extends from Elliott Avenue West up the side of West Roy Street. Several places along that trail widen out to allow small, relatively flat areas for possible off-leash activity also. Otherwise the trail, which is wide enough to accommodate occasional service vehicle access, is fairly steep and bordered on both sides by even steeper terrain that would tend to confine off-leash dogs to the linear trail area.

The list of 21 sites was developed cooperatively by Department staff, City Council staff and staff from City Light and SPU/Water. The Department has completed a draft assessment of the experience from June 1996 to July 1997 at the pilot sites, and is conducting a public process to gather public input on the relative success of the pilot program, what alterations or changes are warranted, and what configuration of sites and mitigating measures is appropriate for recommendation to the City Council. Several documents will accompany this checklist. They are: A matrix for each site containing grounds crew observations in response to site condition surveys conducted in spring 1996, fall 1996 and spring 1997; a draft assessment "overview" and a draft assessment for each pilot site; a transcript of public comments submitted in writing at three public workshops held on July 14, 15 and 16, 1997, attended by a total of about 250 people; and a synopsis of that testimony, both site-specific and general. The Department will continue to accept public comment through August 15, 1997.

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- A12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

All twenty one sites are located within the Seattle city limits. 13 are in parks (including seven of the eight pilot sites; four are on SPU property (one on Drainage and Wastewater property and three on Water property); and three are on City Light property. Maps indicating site and vicinity are attached. The relevant address, section, township, range, and legal description of each of the sites, the precise location of each proposed off-leash sites follow on the ensuing pages.

1. Golden Gardens Park, 8498 Seaview Pl. NW, Seattle, WA 98177

QTR: NE SECT: 03 TWN: 25 RNG: 03

GL 1 LY W OF TREATS H W LOYAL HEIGHTS DIV #1 TGW POR OF SD PLAT DEEDED FOR PARK PER ORD #62728 ON 07-27-32 LESS G N R/W TGW POR ADJ DEFINED AS FOLLOWS - BALLARD TIDELANDS-STANLEY-MEADS ALL OF BLK 22 TGW VAC STS ADJ TGW POR OF BLK 23 LESS G N R/W

AND

QTR: SE SECT: 34 TWN: 26 RNG: 03

POR GL 1 & 2 LY W OF PLAT OF LOYAL HEIGHTS TGW POR VAC CO RD ADJ TGW POR TIDE LDS ADJ LESS RR R/W TGW LOTS 1 THRU 12 BLK 24 & LOTS 1 THRU 12 BLK 25 & LOTS 1 THRU 10 BLK 26 ALL IN BALLARD TIDE LANDS ADD

**Location of pilot OLEA site:**

Grassy upper meadow (mowed lawn) immediately north of parking area accessed by Golden Gardens Drive, east of the paved path which leads to trails above and down to the beach below, west of Golden Gardens Drive, and south of a treed portion of the park.

2. Lower Woodland Park, 5003 E. Green Lake Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105

QTR: SE SECT: 07 TWN: 25 RNG: 04

POR OF WOODLAND PARK LY ELY OF AURORA AVE N

**Location of pilot OLEA site:**

A long strip of land immediately east of Aurora Avenue beginning south of the intersection of two service roads south of the north parking lot, continuing south adjacent to and west of the service road which runs to the west of a rabbit warren (a colony grown from domesticated rabbits dumped there after Easter twenty or so years ago), to the southernmost service road across Aurora Avenue connecting Lower Woodland with Woodland Park Zoo, and north of the south parking area.

3. Magnuson Park, 6500 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

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(Information provided by the Office of the King County Assessor indicates that the whole of Magnuson Park consists of multiple parcels of property. The following was provided as the legal description, etc., for this park.)

QTR: NE SECT: 11 TWN: 25 RNG: 04

BEG 25 FT E OF N 1/4 COR TH S PLW & 25 FT E OF W BDRY OF GL 1 793.69 FT TH S 89-57-05 E 757.48 FT TH N 29-35-43 E 255.12 FT TH S 71-20-44 E TO SH LN TH NLY ALG SH LN TAP S 64-30-00 E FR MDR COR TH N 64-30-00 W TO MDR COR TH N 89-52-25 W 1794.1 FT TO BEG

AND

QTR: SW SEC: 01 TWN: 25 RNG: 04

GL 1 & SHORE LANDS ADJ

**Location of pilot OLEA site (boundary walk and beach area):**

The OLEA "Boundary Walk" begins at a point nearly due west of the parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts and sports fields, continuing southwest to the service roadway which borders the fence separating Magnuson from Sand Point Naval Air Station, following that road north to the maintenance shed. The yard immediately north of the shed would be mowed to provide an exercise area and would particularly serve those handicapped persons unable to continue the boundary walk once it leaves the paved roadway.

The walk then continues along the fence separating Magnuson from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration property (NOAA), until just west of the intersection with the roadway connecting Magnuson with the Sound Garden at NOAA. Dogs would need to be leashed to continue across this access road to reach the waterfront OLEA site to the north. Off-leash activity would continue to be a violation in any other area of Magnuson.

The pilot beach access can be reached by walking north on the roadway from the parking lot south of the hill and west of the formal swimming beach area a distance of about 1200'. The original proposal included the boundary walk and waterfront beach access as one proposal package.

**4 & 5. Volunteer Park, 1400 East Prospect, Seattle, WA 98112**

QTR: NE SEC: 29 TWN: 25 RNG: 04

**VOLUNTEER PARK**

**Location of pilot OLEA sites:**

The first pilot site is a long, narrow strip of land bordering Federal Avenue East from the tennis courts south of Galer St. East and moving southerly to East Prospect Avenue, bisected at the East Highland entrance by a pedestrian path which shall be on-leash, and lying west of the service loop road and a large bank of shrubbery and trees which borders the road. Entrance points are at Galer, Prospect, Highland and from the service road.

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The second pilot site is the flat lawn behind the Seattle Asian Art Museum. It lies between the walkway immediately north of the museum and the D. Carter sculpture at the museum's south border, flowing eastward from the rear of the museum toward the stand of trees which lie immediately west of the park walkway parallel to 15th Avenue East. This site would be open to off-leash activity **ONLY** before 9 a.m. daily, and closed to off-leash activity between 9 a.m. and park closure.

6. I-90 Lid Drainage Basin/"Blue Dog Pond", 1610 S. Massachusetts, Seattle, WA 98144

QTR: NE SEC: 09 TWN: 24 RNG: 04

ARMOUR ADD

**Location of pilot OLEA site:**

NW of the intersection of Martin Luther King Way South and S. Massachusetts, bordered on the west by 26th Avenue and on the north by I-90 Lid Park; a sloping catch-basin designed to allow Seattle Engineering Department's Drainage and Wastewater Division to be able to handle water from any "100-year" flood when the city's storm drain system would be overloaded. It rarely has water in it and during any such use would, of course, not be suitable for off-leash activities. The primary entrance is from S. 26th Avenue, just north of South Massachusetts, although the site can be accessed by a path leading down from the adjacent I-90 Lid Park.

7. Genesee Park, 4316 S. Genesee St., Seattle, WA 98144

QTR: SE SEC: 15 TWN: 24 RNG: 04

LAKEWOOD REPL PTN MAYNARDS LK WN LOTS 13-14 & N 20 FT OF 15 BLK 17 TGW ALL BLKS 19 THRU 22 & 32 & 44-45 TGW PORS VAC STS & ALLEYS ADJ LAKEWOOD REPL OF MAYNARDS LK WA ADD TGW LOTS 7 THRU 12 BLK 8 TGW ALL BLK 9 TGW LOTS 1 THRU 6 LESS W 68.5 FT OF S 40 FT OF 5 AND LESS W 68.5 FEET OF 6 TGW ALL LOTS 7 THRU 12 BLK 18 TGW ALL BLKS 31-33-34-35 TGW LOTS 1-6 BLK 48 MAYNARDS LK WASHINGTON ADD TGW PORS VAC STS ADJ

**Location of the pilot OLEA site:**

The site is in the northeast corner of the south section, is about 300' X 400', and lies at the corner of South Genesee and 46th Avenue South. It was unused before the pilot program and had piles of fill dirt on it, intended for regrading and leveling.

8. Westcrest Park, 9000 8th SW, Seattle, WA 98136

QTR: SE SEC: 31 TWN: 24 RNG: 04

STATE ADD TO SEATTLE #4 TGW THOSE PORS OF VAC STS ADJ LESS THE FOLG POR - BAAP ON THE E MGN OF 8TH AVE SW 1174.80 FT S OF C/L OF SW CLOVERDALE ST A MEAS ALG SD E MGN TH N 89-46-21.4 E ALG A STEEL WOVEN WIRE FENCE A DIST OF 740.79 FT TAP OF CURVATURE TH ALG A CRV TO LFT HAVING A RAD OF 180.00 FT THRU AN ANG OF 100-49-39 AN ARC DIST OF 315.46 FT TAP OF TANG TH NLY ALG SD TANG & ALG SD FENCE A DIST OF 708.32 FT TAP OF CURVATURE TH ALG A CRV TO THE LFT HAV A RAD OF 180 FT THRU AN ANG OF 79-10-21 AN ARC DIST OF 248.72 FT TAP OF TANG TH WLY ALG SD TANG & ALG SD FENCE A DIST OF 274.00 FT TO THE SE COR OF A

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TRACT OF LAND UNDER LEASE AUTHORIZED BY ORD NO 95927 TO FEDERAL AVIATION ADMIN TH NLY ALG E LN OF SD LEASEHOLD A DIST OF 90.00 FT M/L TO S MGN OF SW CLOVERDALE ST TH W ALG SD S MGN A DIST OF 334.00 TAP OF NXN WITH E MGN OF 8TH AVE SW TH S ALG SD E MGN TO THE POB TGW -- N 1/2 OF NE 1/4 OF SE 1/4 STR 31-24-04 LESS POR THOF LY WITHIN FIRST AVE S & LESS THAT POR LY E OF THE W LN OF A STRIP OF LAND (W 40.00 FT OF E 120.00 FT) & LESS S 350 FT OF N 370.00 FT OF E 400.00 FT OF W 660.00 FT OF N 1/2 OF NE 1/4 OF SD SE 1/4 --- TGW POR OF S 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 & TGW POR OF N 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 LY S OF LN 12.5 FT N OF & PLT C/L OF CLOVERDALE ST EXTD W & LESS POR FOR SD SUBD DAF - WLY OF A LN BAAP ON THE S LN 80.00 FT WLY WHEN MEAS AT R/A FR THE E LN OF SD SEC 31 TH N PLW SD E LN TAP OPP HES 'T' 3+00 ON THE 'T' LN OF ST HWY SR 509 BURIE TO JCT PSH NO 1 TH NLY IN A STRAIGHT LN TAP 75.00 FT DIST WLY WHEN MEAS AT R/A TO SD 'T' LN TAP OPP HES P.C.T. 3+90.0 TH NLY & NEWLY PLW SD 'T' LN TO THE N LN & END OF THIS DESC & LESS ST HWY PER T.J.O. 102554

**Location of pilot OLEA site:**

The service road-path immediately west of the West Seattle Reservoir; a strip of Westcrest Park immediately south of the reservoir and north of the service road-path and the amphitheater, and continuing eastward to include the land between the pathway adjacent to the southeast corner of the reservoir and the service road north of a forested portion of Westcrest Park, eastward to the first service path running north, and northerly to the open field immediately east of the reservoir

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Beacon/Jose Rizal - Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 5, Township 24, Range 4 East W.M.
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir -
3. City Light R.O.W. #1

THAT PORTION OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE'S TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF W.M., LYING WITHIN LOTS 5, 6 AND 7, BAYVIEW GARDEN HOMES AT SOUTH SEATTLE, AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 11 OF PLATS, PAGE 8, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, LYING WEST OF 15TH AVENUE SOUTH.

4. City Light R.O.W. #2

THAT PORTION OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE'S TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF W.M., LYING WEST OF BEACON AVENUE SOUTH AND EAST OF COLUMBIA DRIVE SOUTH.

5. City Light R.O.W. #3

THAT PORTION OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE'S TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF W.M., LYING WITHIN TRACT 10, PLAT OF LAKE DELL, AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 4 OF PLATS, PAGE 17, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

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6. Interlaken East - South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 25, Range 4 East W.M.
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 25, Range 4 East W.M.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 5, Township 25, Range 4 East W.M.
9. Woodland Park Alternate Site - Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 25, Range 4 East W.M.
10. Northacres - Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 20, Township 26, Range 4 East W.M.
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 -
13. Kinnear Park, Lower - Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 25, Range 3 East W.M.

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

**B1. Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pilot Sites:**

1. Golden Gardens Park contains terrain that ranges from rolling to steep slopes (environmentally-critical areas) to the beach along Shilshole Bay. The proposed off-leash site is generally located on a bench between elevations 125 to 135 feet, in a southward sloping meadow about midway up the hillside.
2. Lower Woodland Park has rolling topography which at its north one-third slopes generally eastward toward Green Lake. The proposed off-leash area slopes downhill southward then uphill to the proposed south boundary.
3. Magnuson Park's terrain is flat to rolling with a 65' hill (Sand Point Hill, commonly-called "Kite Hill") in the NE corner of the park. The terrain of the proposed off-leash area is generally flat. The proposed lakefront beach access is flat.
- 4 & 5. Volunteer Park's terrain generally ranges from flat to gentle slope (5%) as does that of the proposed off-leash area which is predominately flat. The terrain on either side of the Seattle Asian Art Museum slopes down more steeply eastward.
6. I-90 Lid Drainage Basin/"Blue Dog Pond" (at I-90) is a sloping, deep, contoured, grassy basin with a gently sloping cement walkway winding down to a lookout point. The proposed on-street parking area on the WSDOT property on the south side of S. Massachusetts is flat.



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7. Genesee Park lies mostly flat with a slope upward at the east side of the north section; the south section contains terraced fields, a gentle eastward slope upward and then a slope down to 46th Avenue South, south of South Genesee St.
8. Westcrest Park terrain contains rolling, steep and flat topography. The proposed off-leash site contains a flat roadway on the west side of the reservoir property, a relatively flat strip of park south of the reservoir which then rolls to a slope to a flat terrace on the east side of the reservoir.

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Duwamish Greenbelt - Jose Rizal Park contains terrain that ranges from flat, rolling to steep slopes (environmentally critical areas) in the adjacent green belt area to the west. The proposed off leash site is generally located in flat open areas of Jose Rizal Park and the adjacent greenbelt. The site is located south of I-90 and east of I-5 Southward to South Holgate Street. There is a sharp topo break, and steep slope up to the developed Jose Rizal park area, probably 40 degrees or more, as well as some gentle slope areas. There is a paved abandoned roadway adjacent to I-5 for approximately 1/2 mile of the lower slope which could be utilized for dogs off-leash activity.
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir's terrain is flat and rolling with a gentle slope westward toward 15th Ave. S. The area is covered with turf.
3. City Light R.O.W. #1 is located in open, slightly rolling power line right of way. The area is mostly covered with turf.
4. City Light R.O.W. #2 is located in open, slightly rolling power line right of way. The area is mostly covered with turf.
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 is located in open, flat power line right of way. The area is mostly covered with turf.
6. Interlaken East is a portion of Interlaken Boulevard closed to traffic between 19th Ave. E. and 21st Ave. E. The paved roadway is flat as it follows the contour of the slope along the ravines and bluffs of North Capitol Hill. The slopes on either side of the road are steep (environmentally critical area) and covered with native trees and understory and big leaf maples.
7. The Magnuson Park Archery Site is a flat to rolling area that is terraced in two main levels with slight slope in between. These fields were created by previous grading or filling activity when the Navy occupied the site.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir: Froula Playground is located on a flat to rolling narrow strip adjacent to the south end of Green Lake Reservoir.
9. Woodland Park Alternate Sites are flat to gently rolling areas of the park. The site behind the tennis courts slopes to the east behind the courts. The site adjacent to Green Lake Way W. is flat to rolling and the terrain on the south side slopes uphill. The site adjacent to Aurora Avenue N. is flat.
10. Northacres is mostly flat to rolling along an existing trail through a wooded area.
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2: The north potential off leash area is to the northeast of the reservoir in a flat area. The southeast area slopes slightly to the south.
13. Lower Kinnear Park's terrain ranges from rolling to steep slopes (environmentally sensitive area). The off leash area would utilize open flat areas and the more gentle grade of the existing service roadway/pathway

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which are located in the lower west portions of the park near W. Roy St. and W. Mercer Pl. The steep slopes adjacent to this service road are newly re-forested, and are not included in the proposed off-leash area. They would be protected by fencing.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**Pilot Sites:**

- 1.) Golden Gardens - the OLEA site has about a 10% slope; the adjacent hillside bluff is an environmentally-critical steep slope which has been prone to slide in the past.
- 2.) Lower Woodland Park - OLEA site - 10% slope
- 3.) Magnuson Park - OLEA site - 5% slope
- 4 & 5.) Volunteer Park - OLEA site - 0-5%
- 6.) "Blue Dog Pond" - OLEA site - 0.4% on bottom of basin
- 7.) Genesee Park - OLEA sites - 5%
- 8.) Westcrest Park - OLEA site - The roadway and the terrace are 0-5% slope; the strip of land south of the reservoir is 0-5% for the first 2/3, the slope eastward increases to 5-15%, with the final 30' or so before the terrace level increasing to 25-40% range. About 1,000 feet east of the proposed side, the terrain becomes an environmentally-critical area, steeply sloping down toward Myers Boulevard. This area is not a portion of the pilot OLEA.

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Duwamish Greenbelt - some gentle slope areas 5-10% and some areas of 40% or more. These latter steep slope areas at the north end of the proposed site would be developed with trail access to the flat service road at the bottom of the slope paralleling Interstate 5.
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - mostly flat from 2%-8%
3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - mostly flat from 2%-8%
4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - most flat from 2%-5%
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - mostly flat from 2%-5%
6. Interlaken East - 40% slopes on either side of boulevard; boulevard is flat following contours of the slope.
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - benched areas mostly flat from 2%-5% separated by 10-20 % slopes.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - mostly flat from 2%-5% in park area and 10-30 % within fenced area of reservoir.
9. Woodland Park Alternate Sites - flat to rolling at 2%-8 % except for area behind tennis courts which has rolling terrain and 10%-20% slope down to tennis courts.

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10. Northacres - mostly flat at 2%-8%

11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - 2%-5% and 10%-20% at the south end which slopes uphill to 138th Ave. N.

13. Kinnear Park, Lower - some 5-10% areas, with the steepest part of the access road being approximately 35% steep slopes adjacent to the one proposed off-leash area are over 75%, and are classified as Environmentally Critical Areas.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

**Pilot Sites:**

1.) Golden Gardens Park - Mottled gray silty sand and fine to medium sand and occasional gravel and roots in the upper 3 feet.

2.) Lower Woodland - Gravelly-sandy mixture underlying turf.

3.) Magnuson Park - Much of the proposed boundary walk site is underlain by fill material created when the Sand Point airfield was demolished in the 1970's; the waterfront site is lake bottom soil.

4 & 5.) Volunteer Park - Silty sand, loose at upper 2-4' level, but firm below; surface organic materials.

6.) "Blue Dog Pond" - The underlying storm drainage system capped by topsoil and grass.

7.) Genesee Park - Lake bottom overlaid by landfill. Wetmore Slough prior to lowering of Lake Washington in 1917, when ship canal opened the lake to Puget Sound access. Refuse fill between Lake Washington Boulevard and South Genesee Street began about 1948, continued about twenty years. Fill consisted mostly of waste excavation material (some inorganic), not necessarily domestic refuse. The north portion across from the Stan Sayres Hydro Pits has had additional inorganic material added to surface to allow for seasonal parking for hydro races.

8.) Westcrest Park - Soils consist of quaternary younger gravel with till at higher elevations, older clay at lower elevations (OLEA is at higher elevation), producing sliding sands and gravel along the slopes.

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Duwamish Greenbelt - glacial till, sand and clay (blue clay cap put on by WSDOT with freeway construction for stabilization.) Clay areas drain poorly.

2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - areas of fill of mixed native soils from reservoir construction. Drainage problems exist in isolated areas originating from underfill areas.

3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf.

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4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf.
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf.
6. Interlaken East: deposits of fine to medium sands, unconsolidated surficial soils, uncemented soils containing perched water to gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf.
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - underlain by fill material and beach deposits, sand.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - silty sand, glacial till, areas regrading for reservoir construction could contain some fill material.
9. Woodland Park Alt. Site - gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf.
10. Northacres - gravelly sandy mixture underlying wooded area.
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf, possible fill material from reservoir construction.
13. Kinnear Park, Lower - deposits of fine to medium sands, unconsolidated surficial soils, uncemented soils containing perched water to gravelly sandy mixture underlying turf and wooded areas. (Note: soils report available as mentioned above in response # A.8).

There are no agricultural lands in the proposed OLEA sites.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

**Pilot Sites:**

- 1.) Golden Gardens - Subsurface soils exploration of the bench area (where the proposed OLEA would be located) encountered "material either transported or restructured in place by landslide activity" (Dames and Moore, Report of Slope Stability, Golden Gardens Park, Dec., 1979). In 1974, major slide occurred in this area after record-breaking heavy rainfalls the previous winter. Residences along View Ave. NW uphill from the bench area experienced foundation cracking and other extensive damage, and there was lateral movement on the bench itself of about 4 feet. The Dames and Moore slope stability study (1979) indicated: "A significant bulge developed along the western edge of the bench...During the fall rainy period of 1974, portions of the oversteepened bulge area slumped and caused subsequent shallow downslope slumping onto the Burlington Northern tracks."
- 2.) Lower Woodland Park - Per Parks Department, none known on OLEA site.
- 3.) Magnuson Park - Per Parks Department, none known on OLEA boundary walk site; lake front property is in a potential liquefaction zone.
- 4 & 5.) Volunteer Park - Per Parks Department, none known on OLEA site.
- 6.) "Blue Dog Pond" - None known (note again that this is a major drainage basin).
- 7.) Genesee Park - Per Parks Department, this is a former landfill site.

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- 8.) Westcrest Park - Per Parks Department, none known on OLEA site. Construction of reservoir on this site would appear to indicate stable soil.

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Duwamish Greenbelt - greenbelt is potential slide area at the areas with steep slopes
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - none known on potential off leash site, construction of reservoir on this site would appear to indicate stable soil.
3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - none apparent.
4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - none apparent.
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - none apparent.
6. Interlaken East - potential slide area and steep slopes, areas of boulevard have had history of slide activity, slides in 1986 closed portion of boulevard to vehicles.
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - none known at off leash site, potential liquefaction zone.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - none apparent.
9. Woodland Park Alt. Site - none known at the pilot off leash site.
10. Northacres - none apparent.
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - none apparent, construction of reservoir on this site would appear to indicate stable soil.
13. Kinnear Park, Lower - potential slide area and steep slopes, recent slide activity in 1986, 1995, 1996 and 1997.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No fill will be added to any of the sites. One of the alternative sites at Woodland Park has been used as a staging area for construction of the Green Lake Path and some leveling and removal of construction debris may be necessary. East Duwamish Greenbelt site may require construction of access trails, stairs and drainage improvements to provide access to all areas.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

At each of these sites, if no controls or mitigation were proposed, heavy animal and human use of proposed sites might degrade ground cover and result in some erosion. Experience in the pilot period is that turf has been substantially worn away from heavy use, especially in the unirrigated Woodland, Golden Gardens and West Volunteer sites. There has been erosion of the beach at the Lake Washington access point of the Magnuson pilot OLEA. In addition, at Golden Gardens such erosion might slip into a stream across from the site, although no such slippage has been observed. The adjacent steep hillside bluffs, through which this stream passes, could be damaged if unleashed dogs were allowed to go up the hillsides. The hillside trails are currently closed due to the potential for slides. This area is not a part of the Golden Gardens pilot OLEA site and signage is posted to keep people and dogs off this hillside. In addition, at Kinnear Park such erosion on any steep slopes adjacent to

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the proposed OLEA Site might add to potential slide activity. The off-leash area would be located to avoid any steep slope areas. At Interlaken, the adjacent steep hillsides could be damaged if unleashed dogs were allowed in any area other than the paved roadway. Some erosion could occur on private property and street rights of way on sites that are not park property or within existing park areas.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The only impervious surfaces in this project are a portion of the Magnuson boundary walk, which utilizes an existing paved service road; a portion of the East Duwamish Greenbelt, which utilizes an existing paved service road; a portion of Lower Kinnear Park, which utilizes a portion of an existing paved service road; and Interlaken Boulevard, which utilizes the existing paved boulevard surface. At Jefferson Reservoir site and others a crushed rock surface could be added for parking areas or pedestrian pathways.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

At each individual site, use has been during the pilot period, and would continue to be, regularly monitored for excessive wear. If necessary, areas would be closed or temporarily fenced to allow regrowth, and seeded. For example, during the pilot period the low grassy area at the East Volunteer pilot site was fenced off from October 1996 through May 1997. Also, fencing could be used to protect steep slopes at all sites.

The Golden Gardens site has been, and would continue to be, closely monitored to ensure that no erosion damages the stream. Some bioremediation measures may be required at some sites. Fencing to restrain movement of off-leash dogs adjoining steep slope areas at Interlaken, Kinnear and East Duwamish will prevent erosion there. Open heavily-used areas would be covered with wood chips to prevent soil compaction and erosion.

The beach site at the Magnuson pilot OLEA is heavily used and erosion has occurred at the water access area. Volunteers have put down Geo-Textile fabric have spread sand at the beach access point, and spread wood chips along the wet arm of the trail route. The lake front could be periodically re-supplied with sand, and the slope could be altered to be less steep. Another optional mitigation measure would be to widen the existing beach access from 80' to 160' or more. This would reduce the extreme concentration of dog access which exacerbates erosion potential of the existing narrow water access point.

**B2. Air**

- a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

According to a 1993 user survey of the Marymoor Park off-leash area, 29% of the 100,000 user-visits were from Seattle. Marymoor is approximately a 40 mile round trip from the intersection of I-5 and SR 520, which means that these Seattle residents drove at least one million (1,000,000) miles during that one year in order to find off-leash recreation space.

By opening several sites throughout the city closer to the homes of Seattle dog owners, the net mileage driven, and therefore total automobile emissions, should be somewhat less than that 1,000,000 miles used in driving to Marymoor.

There could be some currently unquantifiable increase in emissions at each of the sites due to concentration of automobile traffic. If left to accumulate and not removed on a regular basis, dog feces

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could conceivably create an odor. The problem could be worsened in a heavily wooded area as opposed to an open area. Grounds crews have noted no noticeable increases in automobile traffic or in odor from dog feces, noting that most OLEA users pick up, bag and dispose properly of feces.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

North Acres and East Duwamish Greenbelt areas close to the I-5 freeway and emissions from heavy traffic are possible.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

One primary reason for selection of the sites dispersed throughout the city was to reduce total mileage driven by dog owners to off-leash sites, and to make it possible for many dog owners to walk, instead of drive, to the sites. If monitoring during the pilot phase indicates major emissions from the generation of additional vehicles trips to any of the sites, consideration would be given to restricting the hours of operation or even to terminating a given site.

Potential problems with dog feces would be addressed by: having readily available at each site leakproof containers (probably plastic bags) and garbage cans for disposal of dog waste; posting of signage reminding owners of their responsibilities; rigorous enforcing of the city's "scoop" law; and peer pressure exerted by other dog owners who do not want to lose the right to use these areas.

Healthy, dense ground covers and/or wood chips at heavily-used sites can keep down the dust that might otherwise occur in dry periods.

**B3. Water**

**a. Surface:**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**Pilot Sites:**

1. Golden Gardens - A year-round drainage stream passes underground at this site, daylighting at a point adjacent to the footpath which serves as the western border of the site. The stream increases in volume on its downhill course as it flows toward Puget Sound about 800' to the west, emptying upon the beach below the hillside.
2. Lower Woodland Park - There are no surface water bodies on or in the immediate vicinity; Green Lake lies approximately 1/4 mile north/northeast of the site.
3. Magnuson Park - The northeast end of the Boundary Walk is approximately 600' from Lake Washington. The proposed water access (about 75' long x 15' wide) is on Lake Washington which flows via the Ship Canal into Puget Sound.
- 4 & 5. Volunteer Park - There are no surface water bodies on or in the immediate vicinity of the site, other than the Water Department reservoir.

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6. I-90 Lid Drainage Basin/"Blue Dog Pond" - This drainage catch basin is plumbed to send storm overflow waters into the Duwamish River.
7. Genesee Park - While the northern-most portion of this park lies across Lake Washington Boulevard from Lake Washington, there are no other known surface water bodies on or within the immediate vicinity of any of the sites proposed within this park.
8. Westcrest Park - While the West Seattle reservoir is on this site, there is no other surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of this site.

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Duwamish Greenbelt - none.
  2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - While the Jefferson Park Reservoir is near the site, there is no other surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of this site. There is some seepage out of the west slope of the site and these areas will be avoided.
  3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - none.
  4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - none.
  5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - none.
  6. Interlaken East - seasonal drainage and streams during rainy months in ravines ultimately drain into Lake Washington.
  7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - the archery site is 1200' from Lake Washington. There are some low-lying wet areas which have standing water in wet months of the year and these areas should be avoided.
  8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - Green Lake Reservoir to the north of site.
  9. Woodland Park Alternate Sites - all three sites are near Green Lake, varying from 200' to 600' from Green Lake.
  10. Northacres - none.
  - 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - reservoir is near site and a seasonal drainage ditch is on the east border of the off leash area.
  13. Kinnear Park, Lower - none.
- 2.) Will the project require any work over, in or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, the Magnuson Park beach access is within the described waters. The only work involved would be addition of gated fencing and appropriate signage at a point 15'-25' west of the shoreline and approximately 75' - 85' parallel to the shoreline to direct people either into or away from the pilot OLEA site. The fencing would be either split-rail or another product compatible with Seattle Parks Department environmental and aesthetic standards.

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The project would require no other work over, in or adjacent to (within 200') any described waters.

- 3.) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

There would be no additional fill or dredge material used in this project.

- 4.) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 5.) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

None of the sites lies within a 100-year floodplain; the "Blue Dog Pond" site is, however, a catch-basin for a 100-year flood. The Magnuson beach access site is already subject to changes in lake water levels; winter water levels are drawn down to avoid serious storm damage to waterfront properties.

- 6.) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, the proposal does not involve discharge of waste materials in the usual sense. However, any dog which uses any of these sites could eliminate feces or urine at any given site, which would occur whether a dog is on-leash or off-leash. There is no reliable means to anticipate the volume of such discharge. Concentration of off-leash activity into these sites could possibly increase the volume of such materials which, if not properly disposed of, could do the following:

Golden Gardens - There is a possible small-scale transport of dog feces into the stream and indirectly into wetlands and Puget Sound downstream; amount unknown. The water from this source is presently low in coliform count, comparable to Lake Washington count.

Lower Woodland - There is a very small risk of indirect transport of dog feces downslope to Green Lake; small-scale contamination due to 1600' of intervening vegetation (trees, shrubbery and grass).

Magnuson - There is a very small risk of dog feces contamination being transported to Lake Washington by drainage from the boundary walk area. There is a potential contamination of Lake Washington at the beach access site if dog feces were allowed to accumulate near the shoreline. Grounds crews have noticed no such accumulation during the pilot period.

The pilot OLEA sites at Volunteer, Genesee, and Westcrest Parks are not immediately adjacent to water bodies, but feces not properly disposed of could possibly leach into ground water. Grounds crews report that most OLEA users pick up after their dogs at all sites.

"Blue Dog Pond" drains storm water through a considerable drainage system into the Duwamish River; feces not properly disposed could leach into this drain system.

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The potential sites at North Acres Park, Froula Playground, Bitter Lake, Kinnear Park, Jefferson Park and City Light properties are not immediately adjacent to water bodies, but feces not properly disposed could possibly leach into ground water.

Interlaken East - There is possible transport of dog feces into seasonal streams and drainage to Lake Washington.

Lower Woodland - There is a small risk of indirect transport of dog feces downslope to Green Lake.

Magnuson - There is a remote possibility of dog feces contamination being transported to Lake Washington by drainage from the Archery Range area.

East Duwamish Greenbelt - There is slight potential of transport of waste into water via DOT drainage, bioremediation potential of grassy area, save strip of vegetated land downslope.

**b. Ground:**

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

There would be no ground water withdrawn or water discharged into ground water at any of the sites as a result of this project.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals ...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

At none of the sites would fecal material be discharged to groundwater. The most likely potential for contamination would be via water surface runoff (see response 3(c)(2)). The numbers of dogs which would be using these sites are not precisely quantifiable at this point. Citizen surveys done at Magnuson Park during late November, 1994, and early June, 1995, indicated approximately 50,000 dog owner site visits per year, an average of 137 per day. While no other such surveys exist for the other sites, Magnuson appears to be the most heavily utilized park within the city both before and during the pilot period for on-leash and/or off-leash activity.

**c. Water Runoff (including storm water):**

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

This project is not expected to alter any existing runoff patterns.

1. Golden Gardens - Subsurface drainage from uphill areas of the drainage basin supplies year-round flow in the stream which flows underground below the proposed OLEA site, daylighting on its west boundary. This water flows to wetlands and Puget Sound downstream; amount unknown. Summer irrigation of the upper meadow area could contribute to runoff, if not controlled.

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2. Lower Woodland - Storm water runoff from the proposed OLEA would be collected during significant rainfalls from near the Aurora Avenue depressed roadway uphill to the west, flowing eastward downslope; quantity unknown. Summer irrigation, not properly controlled, could contribute to runoff activity.
3. Magnuson Park - Storm water runoff would be collected during storms over the whole flat site and flow generally northward and eastward to Lake Washington; quantity unknown. At the lake front site, storm water would flow downslope directly into Lake Washington; quantity unknown.
- 4 & 5. Volunteer Park - Rain and irrigation would provide the primary sources of runoff; quantity unknown.
6. "Blue Dog Pond" - This site is a storm water catch-basin utilized for overflow storm water during major storms. Any rain water or directed storm water is immediately controlled and directed into a storm drain systems which flows south and west to the Rainier Valley, under Beacon Hill through the Hanford Tunnel, then out to the Duwamish River through the Diagonal Avenue storm drain and 144-inch outfall at South Oregon Street.
7. Genesee Park - Rain, irrigation and watering for dust control would be primary sources of runoff; quantity unknown.
8. Westcrest Park - Rain and other surface runoff are the primary runoff sources; quantity unknown.

Because of their size and impermeable construction, the reservoir sites are in no danger from any runoff which could possibly be created by this project. The reservoir at Volunteer is some distance from the pilot OLEAs, which lie at lower elevations. The West Seattle, Bitter Lake and Green Lake Reservoirs are completely surrounded by tall fences, and are also open at a higher elevation than the OLEA.

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Duwamish Greenbelt - storm water runoff would be collected into DOT drainage system.
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Runoff would be collected into street right of way drainage systems.
3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Runoff would be collected into street right of way drainage systems
4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Runoff would be collected into street right of way drainage systems
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Runoff would be collected into street right of way drainage systems
6. Interlaken East - storm water runoff from the hillsides and roadway are collected in drainage structures and transported to streets rights of way or adjacent property and ultimately Lake Washington.
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Runoff collected into drainage systems and ultimately Lake Washington.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Runoff would be collected into street right of way drainage systems or adjacent properties.

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9. Woodland Park Alternate Sites - rain, irrigation and other surface runoff are the primary runoff sources; quantity unknown.
10. Northacres - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown.
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 rain is the primary runoff source and runoff is collected in the drainage ditch along Linden Ave. N.; quantity unknown.
13. Kinnear Park, Lower - rain is the primary runoff source; quantity unknown. Storm water runoff from the hillsides and pathways are collected in drainage structures and transported to streets rights of way or adjacent property.

**2.) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

At any of the sites, fecal material not regularly removed could enter surface runoff during rainy periods. At Golden Gardens, that material could possibly enter the stream as described previously in (3(a)(6)); quantity undetermined. At the Magnuson waterfront site, this material could directly enter Lake Washington, if not regularly removed. Such material not regularly removed could also negatively impact "Blue Dog Pond's" water quality which flows into the Duwamish. At Interlaken Boulevard, material could directly enter seasonal streams and ultimately Lake Washington. At Lower Woodland site that is next to Green Lake, material if not collected could flow into drainage systems and ultimately drain to Green Lake.

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, or runoff water impacts, if any:**

At each of the sites there is a strong incentive for Seattle dog owners to preserve the availability of these off-leash sites which would likely result in preventive measures such as peer-pressure and voluntary clean-up of any dog feces. Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) would sign an agreement with the city to provide volunteer maintenance services at each site. Each site would have leakproof disposal containers and garbage cans available for disposal. Such measures would likely result in a net reduction of dog waste material.

At each of the sites Animal Control would enforce the scoop laws, citing offenders if necessary. Peer pressure and provision of disposal materials have proved to be strong deterrents in other locales which have off-leash areas.

Multiple sites are being considered so that some sites could be closed on a rotational basis for restoration and vegetation re-establishment. This would decrease the potential for runoff and erosion.

At Golden Gardens, the proposed OLEA boundary could be set back a distance from the stream, and if deemed necessary by either the Parks or Engineering Departments, additional fencing could enclose the open area of the stream where it daylight near the path.

At the Magnuson beach site, there have been comments about the muddiness of the path and difficulty in performing routine maintenance. The Luther Burbank Regional Park off-leash area has logs/dead trees covering some of the waterfront access to protect the sandy soil below; such an approach could be considered at Magnuson if needed.

At Jefferson Park Reservoir, some drainage improvements may be necessary to capture runoff from slope. A drain line could intercept seepage from uphill.

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At East Duwamish Greenbelt, Froula Playground, Bitter Lake Reservoir, Jefferson Reservoir and City Light sites bioremediation measures in the form of vegetative buffers or swales are being considered to reduce the potential for runoff and erosion.

**B4. Plants****a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:**

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☐ shrubs
- ☐ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation

**Deciduous Trees:**

All sites have a variety of deciduous trees within the borders. The pilot OLEA sites themselves which have trees on-site include Lower Woodland, Volunteer, Genesee and Westcrest, to a small extent. Grounds crews report no damage to trees in the pilot areas. Westcrest Park has a virtual forest, but it is located south of the proposed off-leash site. Blue Dog has some small trees on the sidewalk strip to the west, but none on the actual sites.

North Acres Park is a native woodland with deciduous and coniferous trees and understory.

Magnuson Park Archery Range has a variety of vegetation areas, some deciduous and coniferous forest areas at the edges and slopes, and blackberry, tall grasses and spirea in the open central area of the range.

East Duwamish Greenbelt has deciduous woodland areas and tall grasses. Volunteers have planted a number of trees in the greenbelt. This site is also a portion of the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Kinnear Park has deciduous woodland on slopes.

Interlaken Boulevard is native deciduous woodland and understory on either side of the paved surface.

**Evergreen Trees:**

Most sites have a variety of evergreen trees as well. City Light and Reservoir sites are mostly turf with a few exceptions with a small number of trees. No trees are allowed under power lines. Crews report no damage to evergreen trees in the pilot OLEAs.

**Shrubs:**

Most sites have varying types and amounts of shrubs either on-site or immediately adjacent. Shrubs vary from native vegetation to some ornamental shrub beds to highly disturbed areas consisting of blackberry and Scotch broom. Crews report no shrub damage in the pilot OLEA sites.

**Grass:**

Most sites have some area of grass with the exception of North Acres Park and Interlaken Boulevard. Reservoir and City Light sites are virtually all grass. There has been considerable erosion of turf at the pilot OLEAs,

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particularly at the heavily used Woodland Park, Upper Golden Gardens and West Volunteer sites. Since the closure of the West Volunteer site the area has been reseeded, and the grass is beginning to recover. At the East Volunteer site, the vulnerable, low middle section of the OLEA was fenced off from October 1996 to May 1997 to prevent erosion of the turf. The Department will include in its recommendation a plan for surface treatment at potential OLEAs.

**Crops or Grain:**

There are no crops or grains at any proposed site.

**Wet soil plants:**

According to the Seattle Parks Department, none of these plants is found at any of the potential OLEA sites.

Magnuson Park Archery Range has some low lying wet areas during the rainy season with spirea, horsetail and buttercup. The archery site consists of two flat field areas on a bench about 15' above the grade of 65th Avenue NE. These fields were created with previous grading activity which also included some filling of the site. There are shrubs and trees adjacent to 65th Avenue NE and along the north boundary which provide a buffer to the roadway and the adjacent fisheries building. There is also a buffer area of trees and shrubs between the fields and the park maintenance access road and the private residences on the south. There is a wooded area between the two fields, and the two fields are at slightly different elevations, the fields are generally west 100' to 200' away from the Promontory Point wooded area. Use of the two fields may be rotated to provide for grass rehabilitation when the grass is worn. The two fields have a lot of gravel fill, which should provide for a firm base during the winter months. There are areas of Scots broom which could be mowed to open this area. Other areas of vegetation would be preserved, and could be enhanced in the future as funds permit.

**Water plants:**

none.

**Other types of vegetation:**

Volunteer Park has many old trees with historic character.

**b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

East Duwamish Greenbelt and North Acres could have limited amount of vegetation removal to facilitate construction of pathways. At Jefferson Reservoir, some turf removal may be necessary to accommodate construction of a parking lot.

**c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

According to information provided by Seattle Parks Department, there are no threatened or endangered species known to be on any of the proposed OLEA sites. Golden Gardens has a variety of plant species on its hillside trails which could in fact be more protected with an OLEA site on the upper meadow because there would likely be few if any dogs roaming the hillside once the OLEA is opened and the trails banned for off-leash activity.

**d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**

None specific at this time. If activity appeared to damage any vegetation, those areas would be considered for restoration, rotation until regrowth occurs, or closure.

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One aspect could be to determine the feasibility of utilizing additional landscaping, including native plantings or bioremediation measures, to reduce possibilities of runoff and to enhance and partially obscure any fencing, as well as provide additional habitat for birds and small mammals.

**B5. Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

\_\_\_\_\_

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

\_\_\_\_\_

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pilot Sites:**

- 1.) Golden Gardens - Hawks, songbirds, coyotes, mountain beavers and rabbits inhabit some portions of the park. Eagles have been observed flying over the area (there is a known eagle habitat at Discovery Park some distance south of this site).
- 2.) Lower Woodland - Hawks, songbirds and rabbits inhabit some portions of the park. The boundary of the pilot OLEA was moved to the west at the site of a large rabbit warren composed of domesticated rabbits who are now feral. Dogs off-leash outside the designated pilot OLEA have been observed chasing rabbits.
- 3.) Magnuson - Hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents. Magnuson's waterfront area has songbirds, waterfowl including herons, and migrating juvenile salmon (offshore). There is no sockeye salmon lakeshore spawning in this part of Magnuson's shoreline, according to the Seattle Parks Department. Some people have observed eagles soaring over Magnuson; we have not been told of nor have we observed any of their nests in the park. The Department has received citizen reports of dogs chasing birds at the pilot OLEA
- 4 & 5.) Volunteer Park contains songbirds and small mammals.
- 6.) "Blue Dog Pond", being a drainage catch-basin, is not particularly hospitable to wildlife.
- 7.) Genesee Park contains hawks, songbirds, possible owls, and small mammals, including rabbits and other rodents. Peregrine falcons and eagles have been observed at various times flying overhead; their likely habitat is Seward Park slightly south of Genesee.
- 8.) Westcrest Park contains hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents.

**Potential Sites:**

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1. East Beacon/Jose Rizal - hawks, songbirds, small mammals, raccoons; connects to greenbelt and Mountains to Sound Greenway
  2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents
  3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents
  4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents
  5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents
  6. Interlaken East - songbirds, possible owls, and small mammals
  7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - hawks, owls, eagles overhead; songbirds, hummingbirds, small mammals including rabbits and other rodents.
  8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - songbirds, possible owls, small mammals and other rodents
  9. Woodland Park Alt. Site - songbirds, and small mammals
  10. Northacres - hawks, songbirds, possible owls, small mammals and other rodents
  - 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - songbirds, possible owls
  13. Kinnear Park, Lower - songbirds, possible owls, small mammals including raccoons, opossums, rabbits and rodents
- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

According to the Seattle Parks Department, there are no known threatened or endangered species inhabiting any of these sites, although occasionally peregrine falcons and eagles have been observed flying through such areas as described in the previous response.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Seattle lies underneath the Pacific Flyway for migrating waterfowl, so during migratory season any Seattle park, particularly one located on water such as Magnuson, could conceivably contain migrating waterfowl.

The proposed sites at Golden Gardens upper meadow, and Lower Woodland Parks, and Blue Dog Pond are less likely to contain these species.

At Magnuson Park's waterfront, juvenile salmon migrate along shore en route to Puget Sound and beyond. Mature sockeye salmon may migrate along shore when returning to lakeshore spawning sites east of this proposed OLEA site. It is expected that the impact of occasional dogs swimming in the water would not exceed the impact from the power boats in the lake or the activity at nearby swimming beaches.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

There would be careful delineation of OLEA boundaries to avoid wildlife habitat, voluntary and/or enforcement actions to restrain dogs from chasing wildlife, peer pressure from those dog owners who do not want the OLEA



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endangered, and possible closure of Lake Washington water access during times of salmon migration, depending upon advice from Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department.

Future Parks Department plans for Magnuson include a wetland/wildlife area, which would be designed to deter incursions by off-leash animals.

**B6. Energy and Natural Resources**

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable. This project will require no additional energy needs.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

**B7. Environmental Health**

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There would be no environmental health hazards such as exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire or explosion, spill or hazardous wastes that could occur as a result of this proposal.

This proposal does not represent a significant change from current conditions because dogs are already allowed on-leash in all City parks. The pilot experience has shown that there would be additional usage at each site as dog owners seek out designated off-leash sites to avoid being ticketed for illegal off-leash activity.

Disposal bags and garbage cans would be available at each site along with posted rules reminding dog owners that they are required to so dispose of any dog feces. And with the incentive to maintain OLEAs after the pilot phase, the proposal could likely result in a reduction of dog feces being deposited on park lands or entering nearby water bodies from storm events.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.  
No special emergency procedures will be required.

- 2.) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The question of proper disposal of dog feces is a major concern for both proponents and opponents of off-leash areas. Seattle Municipal Code Section 21.36.025 had banned disposal of animal excrement into the solid waste stream, making it illegal to put properly-bagged dog feces into a public or private garbage can. The City Council passed a bill on August 14, 1995 to amend SMC to permit the disposal of animal excrement in public and residential garbage cans, provided it is first placed in a closed, leak-proof bag or container. Grounds crews report

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observing consistently high percentages of dog owners picking up after their dogs in the pilot OLEAs.

The following actions may lead to a net decrease in the amount of dog feces on park property or entering water bodies:

- (a.) Leak-proof containers (plastic bags) have been during the pilot period, and would continue to be, placed at convenient locations at each off-leash park for dog owners to dispose of pet feces and other trash;
- (b.) Rules for proper disposal of dog feces and use of the off-leash areas have been during the pilot period, and would continue to be, posted at each off-leash location, including the requirement that pet owners pick up after their dogs.

Locales such as King County, Washington, and Long Beach, California, indicate that disposal of dog feces at their off-leash parks is not a major problem for two primary reasons: the high degree of compliance with posted rules and the strong peer pressure exerted by those responsible dog owners who do not want to lose their off-leash privileges. (Note: the Metropolitan King County Council adopted on June 19, 1995, a master plan for Marymoor Regional Park which includes an extension of the off-leash area for at least seven years, at which time the situation will be reevaluated.)

San Francisco, which allows off-leash activity in a large number of city and county park lands, indicates less success in parks with mixed recreational uses. Assistant Superintendent of Parks Michael Morlin reports that heavy usage of these areas creates problems when irresponsible dog owners do not clean up after their dogs, and he suggests that designated dog runs should be fenced, well-kept and regularly cleaned by groups of organized volunteers.

These two variant experiences, and our own pilot experience, have been and will continue to be useful to the City of Seattle in both designing the monitoring and evaluation program for the project and in executing the agreement with COLA to provide volunteer maintenance for the sites.

Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA), the dog owners group organized to support the formation of off-leash areas, and the City of Seattle would enter into an agreement whereby COLA will provide regular volunteer maintenance at each site to insure that all sites remain clean and safe. Each site would have its own "Adopt-A-Park" subgroup responsible for maintenance, and Department and Animal Control staff would meet regularly (probably quarterly) with COLA representatives to ensure ongoing compliance by all parties to the agreement.

Rules banning fighting and biting have been and would continue to be posted and strictly enforced; dogs with a known history of such behavior to Animal Control are and would continue to be banned from these sites. Owners may be asked to muzzle overly-aggressive dogs or to remove them from the site.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment operation, other)?

East Duwamish Greenbelt and North Acres sites are located adjacent to the I-5 freeway.

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- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from site?

The types of noises which could be created, and which in fact already exist at most of these sites, include barking, whistles, shouts, and voice commands, which might annoy some park users. The concentration of usage at these sites could possibly lead to an increase of these noises. Neighbors across 15th East from Volunteer Park report, since the pilot OLEA at this location opened from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., that barking and human voices reverberate off the back wall of the Seattle Asian Art Museum. Crew observations at the other pilot sites are that the OLEA activity does not contribute substantially to the overall sound level created by other activities.

Existing noise levels at most pilot sites appear to be within acceptable levels. There is no way at this point to quantify potential noise increases, but careful monitoring during the pilot phase has led to the establishment by COLA, in cooperation with Department grounds crews, of movable "stop 'n' play" areas that encourage users to disperse sound and other impacts by moving activity from one point to another over time. Similar problems can be dealt with as necessary. Varying numbers of pet owners currently use each of these sites for walking dogs on-leash and off-leash.

Occasional noise from dogs yelping and barking, and from dog owners giving commands, is likely to continue at existing levels, and possibly to increase. Because off-leash areas would be used during normal park hours, there would be no change in the hours that any potential noise could be caused by activities in parks.

During the start-up stage of these sites, there would be short periods of construction activity while fences and signs are put into place. Any noise created would be neither significant nor long-term.

Several of the sites are located within major urban/regional parks which already have considerable use by dog owners - Golden Gardens, Magnuson, Volunteer and Lower Woodland - so that noise from increased automobile traffic to and from the sites is not likely to be a significant factor.

Westcrest's entrance and parking are relatively isolated; automobile traffic is also not likely to be a problem. Genesee has parking available both on-site and across Lake Washington Boulevard at the public marina; street parking is also available along 43rd Avenue South, the western border of the northern section of the park.

I-90 Lid/"Blue Dog Pond" will be a new site for this activity and there will be some traffic increase and related noise. This site is adjacent to the very busy intersection of a major arterial (M.L. King Way South) and a busy east-west connector (S. Massachusetts) so increases in noise level could be difficult to monitor.

Froula Playground and the two Bitter Lake Reservoir sites are small and close to residential houses and this activity will likely increase traffic and related noise.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The proposal would include a number of measures to reduce or control possible noise impacts. First, sites of off-leash areas would be proposed throughout the City for pet owners to walk their dogs off leash. Geographic distribution of off-leash sites is intended to prevent concentrating dogs off-leash into a single site which could result in greater noise levels. Second, sites selected for off-leash areas would generally be located away from residential areas to the extent possible, except for the Volunteer Park site. Third, off-leash areas would be located in less used areas of parks, away from high use areas such as children's play areas.

In addition, monitoring each area, and closing or restricting hours of use if necessary, education and signage, peer pressure, and voluntary restraint w be important measures to reduce possible impacts. Currently, the pilot would allow off-leash activity during the parks' normal operating hours, but if, for example, late evening noise were to become a problem, a given site's hours could be cut back to an earlier closing time for the OLEA, or the site could be closed.

The exact fence boundaries would be determined in cooperation with the Parks Department. Informal walk-throughs of the pilot and potential sites has produced some initial agreements on fence locations (e.g., at the beginning of he pilot project, the Woodland Park site fence was placed to protect the rabbit warren). This practice would apply to any additional OLEAs the Department may recommend.

#### B8. Land and Shoreline Use

##### a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

At each of the six parks with pilot OLEAs, current use includes public open space and informal active and passive recreation activities (including dog owners walking and exercising their dogs), and some organized sports activities. The pilot experience has shown that informal uses have moved to other areas of the parks.

- 1.) Golden Gardens - public open space, informal active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity. Some summer day camp activity on the meadow, and an annual Easter Egg hunt. A picnic area is nearby.
- 2.) Lower Woodland - public open space, informal active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity, seasonal cross-country running activity traverses portions of the proposed site, which despite agreements on closure during cross-country practices and meets, produced conflicts. Picnic areas and tennis courts are nearby.
- 3.) Magnuson Park - public open space, informal active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity. Nearby Kite Hill is a popular kite-flying area. Elsewhere in the park are picnic, swimming and playground areas. The pilot OLEA site is in a less-used area of the park. Some citizens report problems with dogs off-leash--and with their owners--outside the OLEA. Dog owners say muddy conditions force them outside the OLEA boundaries.
- 4.) Volunteer Park - public open space, informal active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity. Elsewhere in park are children's wading pool and play area, art museum, a botanical conservatory, tennis courts, and an outdoor theater. The pilot OLEAs are in a less-used area of the park.

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- 5.) "Blue Dog Pond" - landscaped storm water catch-basin owned by Seattle Engineering Department; no known current public recreation activity.
- 6.) Genesee Park - public open space, informal active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity. Elsewhere in park are picnic and children's play areas, ball fields and tennis courts. The pilot site has been used during Seafair events for parking automobiles; this site was a relatively-unused area of the park the rest of the year before the pilot period.
- 7.) Westcrest Park - public open space, active and passive recreation, including on-leash and off-leash activity. The open fields and forested area are occasionally used by the Society for Creative Anachronism for their simulated medieval war games. The pilot OLEA site was in a relatively-unused area of this complex before the pilot period; the park itself is one of the lesser-used parks in the city.

**Potential Sites:**

Bitter Lake and Jefferson Park Reservoirs - public open space, informal active and passive recreation including on and off leash activity.

City Light Rights Way (3 sites) - public open space, informal active and passive recreation including on and off leash activity. P-Patch gardens are located nearby sites #2 and #3.

Northacres Park - public open space, informal passive use of trail system, near ballfields.

Froula Playground - public open space, play area, formal and informal use of grassy area.

Woodland Park Alternate Sites - Site #1: public open space, informal use of open grassy area, Green Lake Path and lake nearby. Site #2: used for staging area of path project, near parking lot, lawn bowling and path nearby. Site #3: informal passive use of trail system, wooded area and some steep slopes down to tennis courts, near Green Lake Path.

Magnuson Park Archery Range: in a less-used area of park, no other identifiable uses, some on and off leash activity, bird watching, walking.

Kinnear Park - public open space, passive activity, tennis court nearby, trails, jogging trail between Queen Anne and Myrtle Edwards Park.

Interlaken Boulevard - public open space, closed portion of boulevard, used as a designated bicycle route, walking, on and off leash activity and other passive activities.

East Duwamish Greenbelt - public open space and DOT right of way, portion of Jose Rizal Park has low usage, homeless encampments have been an ongoing issue, access to off leash area would be through active park area with play area, picnic area and restrooms.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

City Light Sites #2 and #3 have power line towers in the proposed area.

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Magnuson Park - existing shed building used for archery range.

The Magnuson boundary walk is adjacent to the Parks Department maintenance shed. The Westcrest site adjoins the West Seattle Reservoir on the east and west.

**d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

Part of the Magnuson Archery Range structure could be demolished, saving part of it as shelter for visitors to the site.

**e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

**Pilot Sites:**

- 1.) Golden Gardens Park - SF 9600
- 2.) Lower Woodland Park - SF 5000
- 3.) Magnuson Park - SF 7200
- 4 & 5.) Volunteer Park - SF 5000
- 6.) "Blue Dog Pond" - LTD/ WSDOT - L-1; L-2
- 7.) Genesee Park - SF 7200 (North site); SF 5000 (East, South sites)
- 8.) Westcrest Park - SF 7200

**Potential Sites:**

1. East Beacon/Jose Rizal - SF 5000, greenbelt, East Duwamish
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - L-1, SF 5000
3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - SF 5000
4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - SF 5000
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - SF 5000
6. Interlaken East - SF 5000
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - SF 9600
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - SF 5000
9. Woodland Park Alt. Site - SF 5000
10. North Acres - SF 5000
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - SF 7200, L-3 and C2 adjoining
13. Kinnear Park, Lower - L-3 and C2 adjoining

**f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

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Each of the sites is designated Public Open Space (Mayor's 1994 Recommended Future Land Use Map). Reservoir sites are within public utility rights of way or utility easement corridors.

**g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

The only sites applicable are the Woodland Park alternate sites which are near Green Lake and Magnuson's beach area, which are CR, Conservancy Recreation.

**h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**

Yes. Golden Gardens has been designated ECA for potential slide area, steep slope and wildlife habitat. The upper meadow proposed for the OLEA site is a gradual slope north to south, on what appears to be more stable soil and does not appear to be part of the ECA; it is within the wildlife habitat area.

The Lower Woodland site is designated urban wildlife habitat; Magnuson Park, wildlife habitat and potential liquefaction near the proposed OLEA beach area; Volunteer Park for wildlife habitat and steep slope (the proposed OLEA itself is fairly flat); Genesee for landfill, liquefaction and urban wildlife habitat. Areas of Westcrest some distance east of the proposed OLEA site contain steep slopes.

Magnuson Park Archery Range is designated a wildlife habitat and liquefaction zone.

**i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

None.

**j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

None.

**k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**

Not applicable.

**l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and project land uses and plans, if any.**

At each site, attractive gated fencing and signage, compatible with Parks Dept. usage (probably split rail but of a type approved by Parks Dept.), would carefully delineate OLEA boundaries to minimize potential conflicts with adjacent users. Education and peer pressure, responsible management. All six parks sites are currently used to some extent by dog walkers.

All sites would coordinate with Parks Dept. schedules regarding other possible users (day camp, sports groups, etc.) so that other such uses can be accommodated; the OLEAs can be temporarily either restricted in hours or even closed to off-leash activity when need for other non-compatible uses. Prior to the start of other events, the given off-leash user group would do a maintenance "sweep" of the site to ensure disposal of any dog waste or other debris.

There are a few sites, such as Interlaken and the East Duwamish Greenbelt, that would be difficult to fence completely; other uses would continue to occur in the same area.

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**B9. Housing**

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing?  
None.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing?  
None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.  
None.

**B10. Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Gated fencing approximately 3.5-4' where natural barriers do not exist, split rail fencing and/or other fencing compatible with any existing adjacent fencing.

Information kiosk/signs to provide information designating OLEA boundaries, posting of rules and regulations (such kiosks are in place at the pilot sites), would have wood posts approximately 5'6" above ground level.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None in the immediate vicinities of Golden Gardens, Magnuson, Westcrest, "Blue Dog" or Lower Woodland Parks. At the West Volunteer Park pilot, site whose west border is the back yards of \*homes on Federal Avenue, fencing was installed in a few locations; most yards were already fenced. Such fencing slightly altered, but did not obstruct, any views. Installation of fencing at any of the Genesee Park site altered slightly, but did not obstruct, views of neighbors. Since one of the sites there is currently an landfill site with hilly dirt areas and weeds, such fencing might have improved the view of the neighbors across 46th Avenue South.

At City Light and Reservoir sites, due to their open character and proximity to residential housing, off leash areas would be in view of residential yards, streets and adjacent P-Patches.

At Woodland Park, the two sites along Green Lake Way are visible from the roadway and active park use areas.

East Duwamish Greenbelt area would be partially visible from freeway and downtown buildings.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.

All construction materials would comply with Parks Dept. requirements for installation and aesthetics.

Froula Playground, may require a vegetative buffer plantings to lessen impacts.

**B11. Light and Glare**



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- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None.

**B12. Recreation**

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

**Pilot Sites:**

- 1.) Golden Gardens - Walking, picnicking, other informal recreational activities, informal on-leash and off-leash dog exercise.
- 2.) Lower Woodland - Walking, picnicking, other informal recreational activities, informal on- and off-leash dog exercise, cross-country running course. Slightly further away are Woodland Park Zoo (to west across Aurora Ave.), lawn bowling (north), Green Lake (northeast), and Lower Woodland athletic fields (east).
- 3.) Magnuson - Walking, picnicking, sports field, swimming, kite flying, tennis courts, wildlife and bird watching, informal on- and off-leash dog exercise. The beach area proposed for OLEA is currently used for dogs swimming and, because of its relative isolation, for occasional nude sunbathing by people who seek its relative isolation from the swimming beach to the south.
- 4 & 5.) Volunteer Park - Walking, picnicking, other informal recreational activities, both active and passive, informal on- and off-leash dog exercise.
- 6.) Blue Dog - No recreation activities.
- 7.) Genesee - Walking, picnicking, informal recreational activities, both active and passive, bird-watching, informal on- and off-leash dog exercise; a children's play area is further away from the immediate OLEA site.
- 8.) Westcrest - Walking, picnicking, informal on- and off-leash activity.

Some of these sites and/or nearby adjacent areas are used by Frisbee players.

**Potential Sites:**

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1. East Duwamish Greenbelt: picnic area, play area, viewpoint in upper park area.
2. Jefferson Park Reservoir - golf course and driving range to the east, community center with basketball, tennis courts, play area, playfields, school play area, cricket pitch.
3. City Light R.O.W. #1 - no recreational activities.
4. City Light R.O.W. #2 - P-Patch across street and no other recreation activities.
5. City Light R.O.W. #3 - P-Patch across street and no other recreation activities.
6. Interlaken East - Walking and designated bicycle route along entire boulevard, hiking and trail system, informal on and off leash dog exercise activity.
7. Magnuson Park Archery Site - Walking, picnicking, sports field, swimming, kite flying, tennis courts, wildlife and bird watching, informal on- and off-leash dog exercise.
8. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - play area to the west, active and passive recreation activity such as Frisbee, picnicking and tennis.
9. Woodland Park Alternate Sites - Walking, picnicking, other informal recreational activities, informal on- and off-leash dog exercise, cross-country running course. Slightly further away are Woodland Park Zoo (to west across Aurora Ave.), lawn bowling (south), Green Lake (east), and Lower Woodland athletic field (east). Green Lake Path near all three alternate sites.
10. North Acres - Walking, picnicking, play area, wading pool and other informal recreational activities, athletic fields.
- 11 & 12. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - no recreational activities nearby.
13. Kinnear Park, Lower - upper park area contains play area, picnic area, tennis courts and walking trails exist in lower park area.

**b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

Yes. The pilot experience has shown that in each of the pilot sites, designated areas have tended to displace park users who do not want to be around dogs, or whose activity would be disrupted by the presence of dogs. Such designation during the pilot period may have reduced off-leash activity in other parts of these parks, though reliable numbers are unavailable; with increased enforcement of illegal off-leash activity outside OLEAs, park users would have a greater certainty of where dogs would or would not likely be.

In non-park sites, those who use the open turf areas for informal recreational activities would be displaced.

At Interlaken Boulevard, the linear nature of the roadway and steep slopes would make shared use necessary and could create potential conflicts.

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OLEA designation does not mean that other park users are not allowed to use the site, only that dogs are allowed off-leash in those areas. It has been our experience during the pilot period, however, that these areas are used largely by dogs and their owners.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

This project would sanction off-leash activity as a recreational activity for Seattle dog owners. Before the pilot project, off-leash activity was not considered to be a valid recreational use in parks.

Established park scheduling procedures have been during the pilot, and would continue to be, used to accommodate temporary changes in usage, such as seasonal special events, day camps, Easter Egg hunts, etc. Notice of such activities would be posted on-site and COLA members would be asked to provide any needed clean-up prior to other use.

Careful delineation of OLEA boundaries to avoid possibly monopolizing an excessive area; appropriate, highly-visible signage; possible increased penalties for off-leash violations outside the OLEA boundaries; education, provided both formally and informally by Animal Control staff and board members and by COLA members; and strict enforcement for violations should all help reduce or control impacts on recreation.

According to Seattle Parks Department, Magnuson's planned wildlife habitat, wetlands area would have special restraints to avoid incursions by off-leash dogs.

#### B13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Yes. All of Volunteer Park is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Seattle Asian Art Museum on in this park is a City of Seattle landmark. Volunteer, Lower Woodland, and Interlaken Boulevard are Olmsted parks. Olmsted-designed parks are planned with carefully selected ornamental plantings and connecting pathways.

Magnuson Park is adjacent to the Sand Point Naval Air Station, a portion of which has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The pilot OLEA is NOT in the immediate vicinity of those buildings.

Jose Rizal is in a primarily Filipino community and a memorial to Jose Rizal is in upper park area.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There are no known archeological sites in any of the potential OLEAs. Volunteer Park was so-named in honor of the volunteers who fought in the army during the Spanish-American War, and contains historical markers. At the northern border of Volunteer Park, Lakeview Cemetery contains gravesites of many pioneers.

Volunteer Park contains some historic trees, planted in honor of various historic figures or events, and the old brick water tower, aka the Seward Monument. The Seattle Asian Art Museum served as the

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city's only museum until the new art museum opened at 1st and University a few years ago. The structure in Volunteer was refurbished, restored and reopened as the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

East Duwamish Greenbelt/ Jose Rizal Park - memorial to Jose Rizal.

Interlaken Boulevard is part of historic Olmsted boulevard system.

**c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

Volunteer Park currently has considerable activity by Seattle dog owners; it is anticipated that with adequate enforcement, designating and signing areas for legal off-leash activity would reduce or control impacts overall in the park.

**B14. Transportation**

**a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

- 1.) Golden Gardens Park is served by NW 85th St., Golden Gardens Dr. and loop down to Seaview Pl. NW. Entrance to site is off Golden Gardens Drive.
- 2.) Lower Woodland Park is served by Aurora Blvd. (US 99), N. 50th and N. 65th Sts., and Green Lake Way North. Primary entrances to site are from parking lots at North 50th and North 65th.
- 3.) Magnuson Park is served by Sand Point Way NE and NE 65th, which is the main entrance to the park.
- 4.) Volunteer Park is served by 15th Ave. East, E. Prospect, E. Highland and E. Galer Streets.
- 5.) "Blue Dog Pond" is served by Martin Luther King Blvd., S. Massachusetts, 26th Ave. S. The entrance to the site is on 26th Ave. S. just north of S. Massachusetts.
- 6.) Genesee Park is served by S. Genesee Street. The entrance to the pilot site has been from South Genesee St.
- 7.) Westcrest Park is served by 8th Ave. SW, 9th Ave. SW, SW Henderson. Primary entrance at SW Henderson and 8th SW.

**Potential Sites:**

- 1.) East Duwamish Greenbelt/Beacon/Jose Rizal Park: One potential entrance is from the north end of the Jose Rizal Park parking lot along 12th Avenue. If a foot trail is constructed down the steep grade there people could lead their dogs on-leash to the lower slopes adjacent to, and in places within, the I-5 right-of-way. Since the proposed off-leash area could be within highway property it could depend on a joint-use agreement (not yet negotiated) with the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). A certain amount of fencing would be needed to delineate that path route, and to prevent dogs from running into the freeway at the north end of the site. The proposed site could also be accessed from South Holgate Street on the south end. There is room there to develop a small off-street parking area, with a gate to restrict access to pedestrians, dogs and occasional WSDOT service vehicles. Beyond that point several hundred feet of unimproved pathway would need some

clearing and upgrading to make it passable to its point of connection to the still-paved service roadway to the north.

- 2.) **Jefferson Reservoir Site:** The proposed site lies westward of a gravel-surfaced road along the alignment of 16th Avenue South. This roadway is within Jefferson Park's boundaries up to the point where it meets with the Seattle School District (Asa Mercer Middle School) boundary at South Dakota Street. The gravel roadway is one-way southbound. There is potentially enough width to make it a two-way access from South Dakota Street, with a turnaround and parking area at the north end near the Seattle Public Utilities facility. This access road improvement could take into account the potential for safe pedestrian/bike access along 16th Avenue South, which presently serves that purpose in its present configuration, connecting Asa Mercer Middle School and South Spokane Street.
- 3.) **Magnuson Park Archery Range Site:** At present this potential site is only accessible from Magnuson Park's south entry road via a pedestrian gate through the fence along the National Biological Service Property. Vehicular access is physically possible around the north end of Promontory Bluff and then westward along the fence line to the archery range site. However, creating or formalizing such a route would introduce vehicular traffic in an area where it is not needed or desirable, so this is not a viable option. Long-term vehicular access would have to be established directly from the Northeast 65th Street south entry road, requiring property adjustments and agreements with the National Biological Service before or after the Navy conveys the Sand Point property to both entities.
- 4.) **Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir:** The primary entrance would be from 15th Avenue Northeast, where a pedestrian gate allows entry from the curbside parking spaces there. Pedestrian/dog access could also be obtained along the short segments of University Way Northeast and Brooklyn Avenue Northeast that dead-end at the reservoir property, but parking for such access should be discouraged along those residential streets.
- 5.) **Kinnear Park (Lower):** The entry points would be from Elliott Way West at the bottom of the service road/trail, and from West Roy Street at the top. Parking on both ends is extremely limited, which may limit the attendance at this site for off-leash use.

For other potential sites: Access is clearly shown on the attached site maps.

- b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

All pilot sites are served by Metro public transit:

- 1.) Golden Gardens, Routes 17 and 48
- 2.) Magnuson Park, Routes 41, 74 and 75
- 3.) Lower Woodland Park, Routes 5E, 6, 29, 30, 44
- 4.) Volunteer Park, Route 10
- 5.) Blue Dog Pond, Route 4
- 6.) Genesee Park, Route 39
- 7.) Westcrest Park, Routes 85, 136 and 137

This issue is not applicable, since dogs (with the exception of seeing eye and hearing ear dogs) are not permitted on Metro buses.

- a. **East Duwamish Greenbelt/Beacon/Jose Rizal** -served by 12th Ave S. and S. Judkins St., entrance to the site is off of 12th Ave. S.

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- b. Jefferson Park Reservoir
- c. City Light R.O.W. #1
- d. City Light R.O.W. #2
- e. City Light R.O.W. #3
- f. Interlaken East
- g. Magnuson Park Archery Site: Approximately 20 cars could park parallel along the east side of 65th Avenue NE, (if access to it could be reestablished to the Magnuson Park south entry road along NE 65th Street).
- h. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir
- i. Woodland Park Alternate Sites: 1. approximately 20 spaces along the east side of West Green Lake Way N.; 2. room for approximately 60 vehicles in parking area immediately south of the proposed site along W. Green Lake Way N.; 3. approximately 10 spaces could be expected to be available at any given time in the large parking area adjacent to tennis court complex --more in the early morning hours and off-season times.
- j. Northacres
- k. Ditter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2
- l. Kinnear Park, Lower

**c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

There would be no change in parking spaces at the six city parks that now have pilot OLEAs:

- 1.) Golden Gardens - about 40 spaces in parking lot immediately adjacent to pilot OLEA
- 2.) Lower Woodland - about 100 spaces in parking lot of pilot OLEA; about 75 additional spaces in the parking areas north of proposed site
- 3.) Magnuson - about 70 spaces in parking lot nearest to start of pilot boundary walk; several hundred parking spots cumulative in Magnuson in parking lots and on park interior roadways
- 4.) Volunteer - about 75 spaces in parking area near SAAM; approximately 75-70 spaces on park roadways
- 5.) Genesee - about 25 spaces in south section parking lot; about 70-80 spaces on the east side of 43rd Avenue South immediately adjacent to north section of Genesee Park
- 6.) Westcrest - 28 spaces in parking lots; 7 available on the park roadway

There is some on-street parking adjacent to and in the vicinity of the "Blue Dog Pond" site; this proposal would add an additional 8-10 on-street parking spaces adjacent to WSDOT property across S. Massachusetts.

**Potential Sites:**

- a. East Duwamish Greenbelt -21 parking spaces in park parking lot off 12th Ave. S.
- b. Jefferson Park Reservoir - 10 spaces within site.

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- c. City Light R.O.W. #1 - 20 spaces on street.
  - d. City Light R.O.W. #2 - 20 spaces on street.
  - e. City Light R.O.W. #3 - 8 spaces on street.
  - f. Interlaken East - 8-10 spaces at each end of closed portion of boulevard.
  - g. Magnuson Park Archery Site - Approximately 20 cars could park parallel along the east side of 65th Northeast (if access to it could be re-established to the Magnuson park south entry road along Northeast 65th Street).
  - h. Froula Playground/Green Lake Reservoir - 7-8 on street.
  - i. Woodland Park Alt. Sites - #1: Approximately 20 spaces along the east side of West Green Lake Way North. #2: Room for approximately 60 vehicles in the parking area immediately south of the potential site, along West Green Lake Way North. #3: Approximately 10 spaces could be expected to be available at any given time in the large parking area adjacent to tennis court complex--more in the early morning hours and off-season times.
  - j. Northacres- 15 spaces in park parking lot.
  - k. Bitter Lake Reservoir #1 & #2 - 10 spaces on street at 143rd.
  - l. Kinnear Park, Lower - 3-4 spaces.
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
- If the Magnuson Park Archery Range site is included in the Department's recommendation to the City Council, it will need to have an element in it that addresses the issue of vehicular access to the site.
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
- At Golden Gardens, Burlington Northern Railroad tracks are approximately 500 feet west of the proposed site, at the base of the steep hillside slope. None of the other sites is near any of these types of transportation.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

There is no reliable data on which to make an estimate. Some of the current vehicular traffic at six of the pilot OLEA sites is already generated by dog owners. There would likely be some increase as other dog owners gravitate to these OLEA sites, thereby increasing current traffic levels, though grounds crews have observed no noticeable increase in traffic at the pilot sites.

If a projection were to be made, one would look at the 29,000 annual site visits to Marymoor Park by Seattle residents. We can assume that a large number of these have shifted to the seven pilot sites in Seattle. Dividing the 29,000 by 365 days equals about 80 visits per day to the combined seven sites, in

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addition to some unknown numbers of site visits by persons who shift to these sites to avoid citations for off-leash activity in other parks.

According to dog owners who participated in developing this proposal and to personal observation at each of these sites over the course of several site visits, sites used for on- and off-leash activity tend to experience peaks on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon.

**g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

Given that Seattle dog owners currently drive an estimated one million miles annually to utilize the off-leash site at Marymoor Park (based upon a 1993 survey by the Marymoor Park OLEA Users Group), there should be a dramatic decrease in total mileage as dog owners utilize Seattle sites closer to their homes.

**B15. Public Services**

**a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

The pilot program has shown that park maintenance would need to increase at the designated sites, depending upon degrees of shift of use from other parks to the OLEA sites. Relative to other park activities, OLEAs should not require significant maintenance, particularly with COLA (Citizens for Off-Leash Areas) providing volunteer maintenance activities at these sites in accordance with an agreement with the City. The agreement, not yet negotiated, would be similar in content to that approved for the duration of the pilot period, would be approved and signed prior to opening of any sites, and would spell out COLA's role in stewardship, initial site set-up, and on-going maintenance, as well as helping handle complaints and raising funds for supplies. The Department spent about \$34,000 (reimbursed by the Save the Animals Fund) on start-up pilot costs, and about \$70,000 (between June 1996 and May 1997) on regular maintenance, site monitoring and condition surveys.

Animal Control enforcement activities should likely increase to enforce the leash law in on-leash areas. Animal Control would oversee these sites to ensure compliance with posted rules. Fewer conflicts between Animal Control and dog owners should reduce demands upon the police department to intervene during conflicts. The Department has received during the pilot period a number of complaints about on-leash activity in non-OLEAs, often accompanied by rude or abusive behavior by dog owners.

The Seattle Police Department community police team and community service officers specifically indicated that off-leash designation would be a plus for some parks in helping to eliminate illicit activity.

**b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

The agreement between COLA and the City of Seattle (to be executed prior to opening any sites) will provide volunteers for maintenance, education and possible licensing canvassing activities. Careful monitoring of the pilot, voluntary compliance with posted rules, peer pressure by dog owners who want to preserve the OLEA, education, signage, and limitation of the OLEA sites to less-sensitive areas of the parks will all contribute to reducing or controlling direct impacts on public services.



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There is a concern that more animal control enforcement is needed in all parks and that off leash areas have increased the number of dogs off leash in other areas of parks not designated as off leash. Animal Control has submitted a budget increment, supported by the Department, which would add two new Animal Control Officers in 1998.

The Seattle Police Department has expressed its general support of the program, and believe that, particularly in areas prone to illegal camping, drug-related or sexual activity (Northacres, Westcrest, Woodland and Magnuson Parks in particular), the positive presence of a legitimate activity such as that engaged in by dogs and their owners may serve to deter those illegal activities. SPD expressed concern about the potential need for additional patrols in Kinnear Park. Grounds crew observations of a drop in illegal activities at these parks bear out this belief.

**B16. Utilities**

**a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:**

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Each of the parks sites has electricity, water, refuse services, sanitary sewer service and telephone service available, although at Magnuson, there is none directly available on the pilot OLEA site. There are no septic systems. "Blue Dog Pond", the drainage basin does not have these utilities on-site.

**Potential Sites:**

**b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

None is contemplated.

**C. Signature**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent,  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Date submitted: 7/30/97

This checklist was reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Specialist, Department of Construction and Land Use. Any comments or changes made by the Department are entered in the body of the checklist and contain the initials of the reviewer.

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EVALUATION FOR  
AGENCY USE ONLY

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

(Do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are in general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment. In answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

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EVALUATION FOR  
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25.05.970 Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

Description of proposal \_\_\_\_\_

Proponent Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Location of proposal, including street address, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Lead agency Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this DNS.

☐ This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by \_\_\_\_\_.

Responsible official Kenneth R. Bounds

Position/title Superintendent, DPR Phone 684-8022

Address 100 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**(OPTIONAL)**

☒ You may appeal this determination to Office of the Hearing

Examiner at 1320 Alaska Bldg., 618 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 no later than 5:00 p.m. on  
\_\_\_\_\_ by Appeal letter and \$50.00 fee.

You should be prepared to make specific factual objection. Contact Seattle Examiner to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

☐ There is no agency appeal.

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
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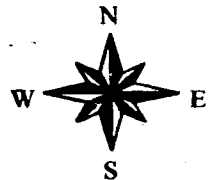


## Jose Rizal Park

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

### LEGEND

-  Parks Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Potential Off-Leash Areas



1" = 400'

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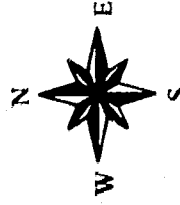


## Interlaken Park

Date of Aerial: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 17, 1997

### LEGEND

 Parks Boundaries  
 Parcel Boundaries  
 Potential Off-Leash Area



1" = 200'

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

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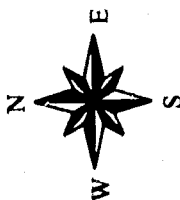


## Kinnear Park

Date of Aerial: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

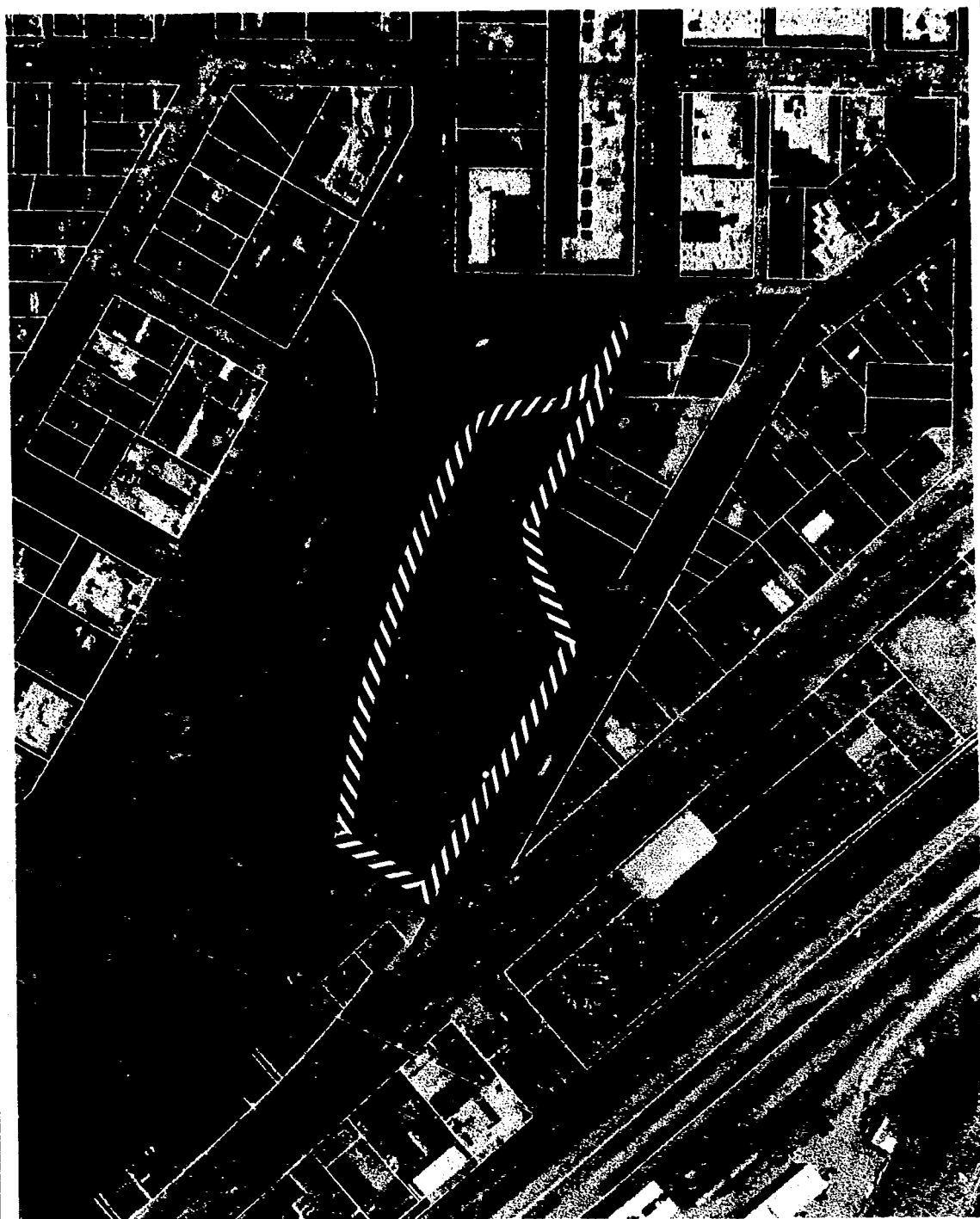
### LEGEND

 Parks Boundary  
 Parcel Boundary  
 Potential Off-Leash Areas

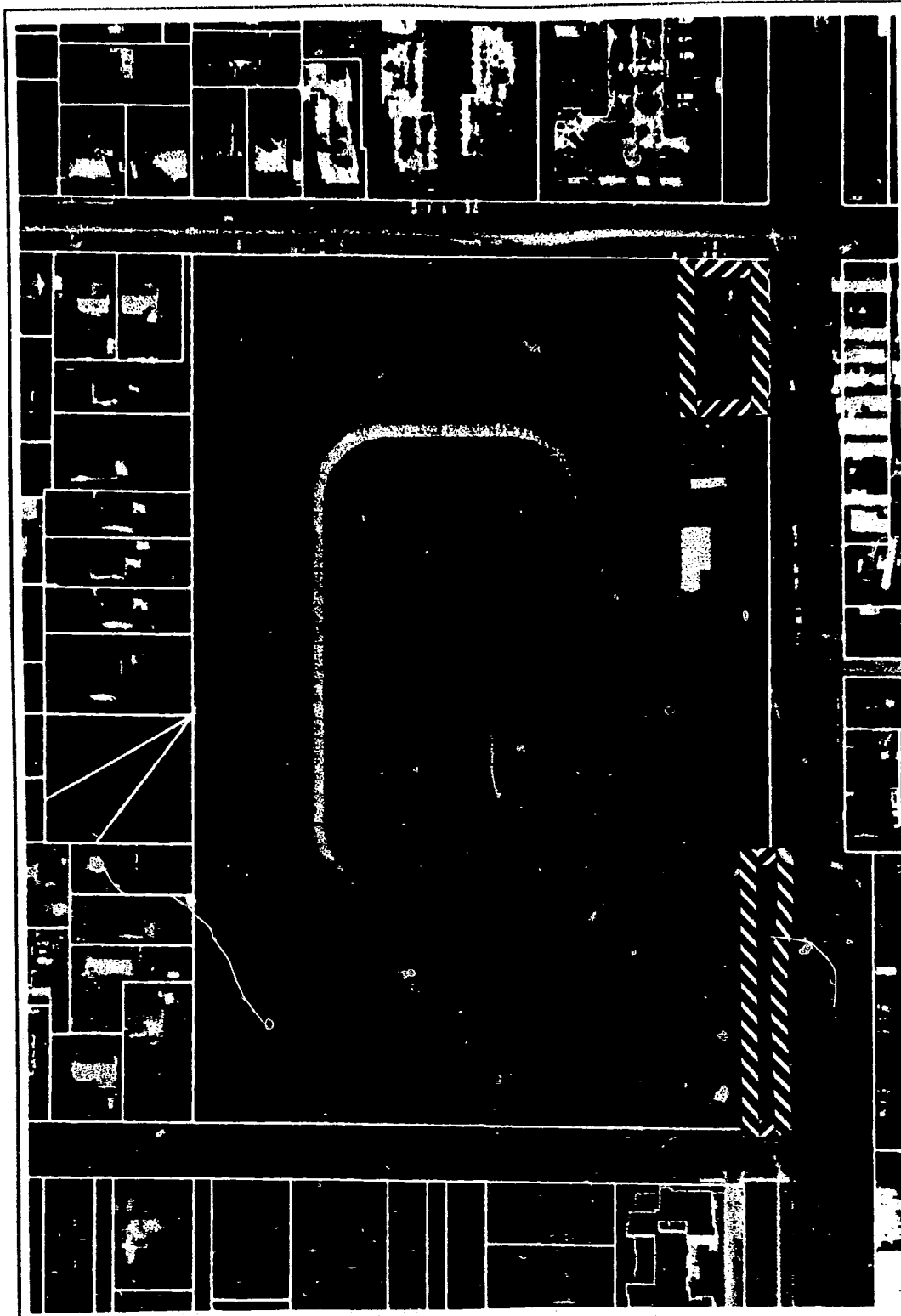


1" = 200'

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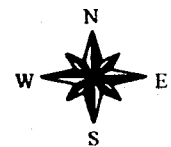


**Bitter Lake Reservoir**

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 1997

## LEGEND

Parcel Boundary  
Potential Off-  
Leash Areas



1" = 150'

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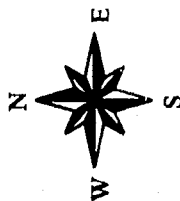


Green Lake Reservoir

Map Produced: July 13, 1997

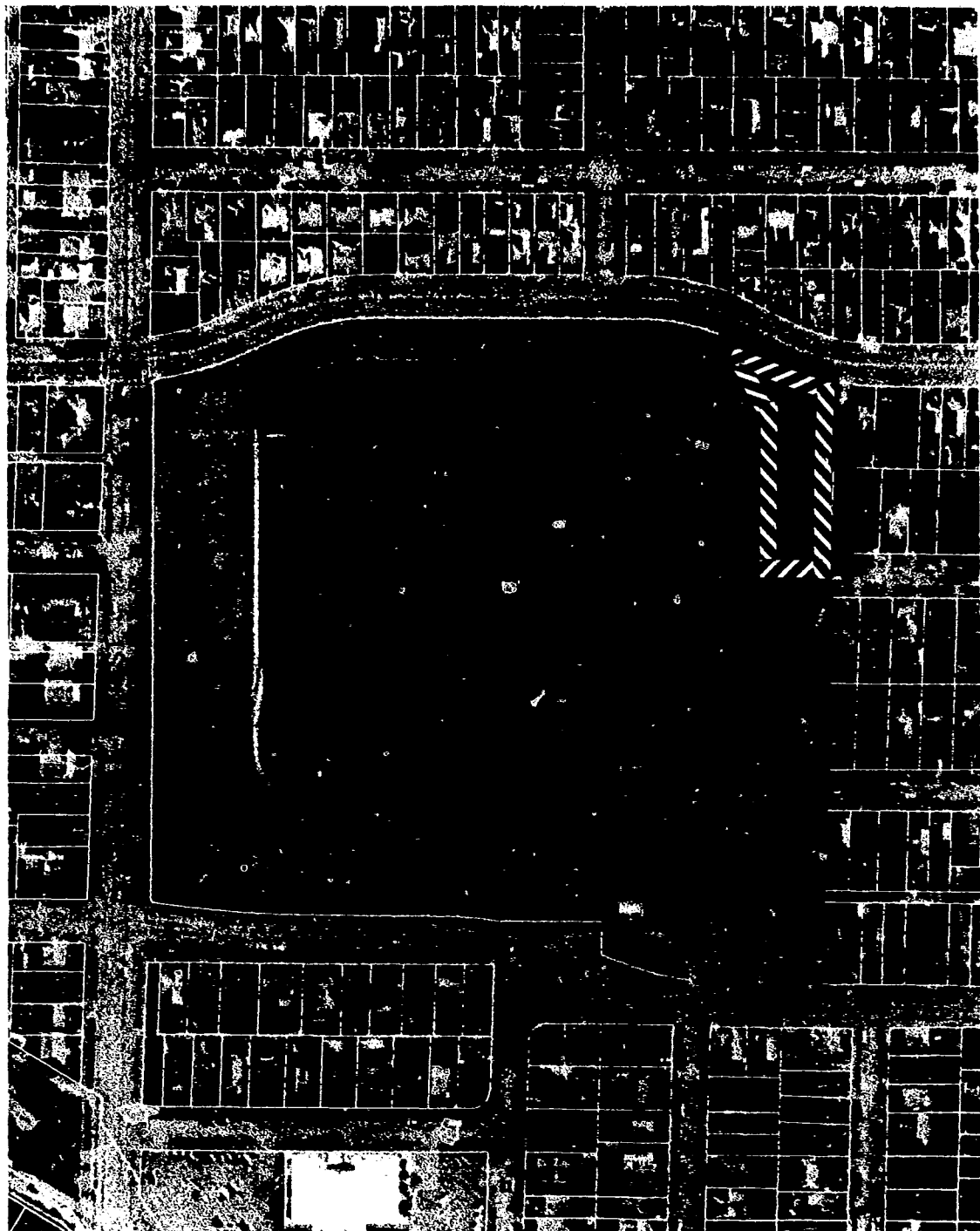
LEGEND

Parks Boundary  
Parcel Boundary  
Potential Off-  
Leash Area



1" = 200'

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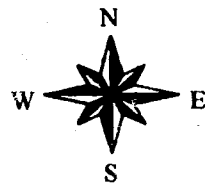


## North Acres Park

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

### LEGEND

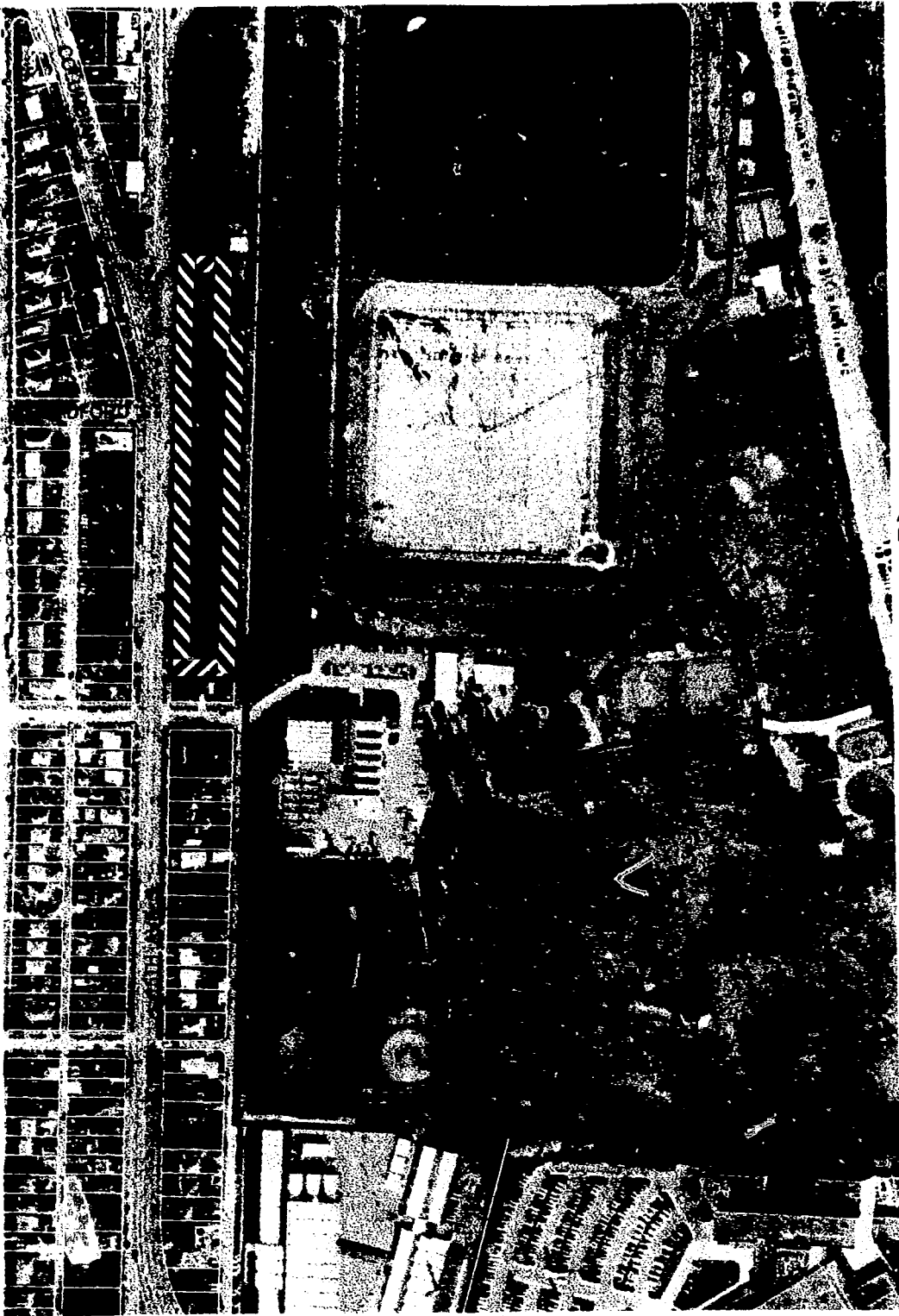
-  Parks Boundary
-  Parcel Boundaries
-  Potential Off-Leash Area



1" = 200'

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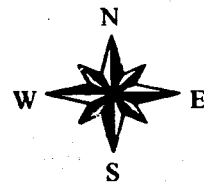


Jefferson Reservoir

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 17, 1997

## LEGEND

-  Park Boundary
-  Parcel Boundaries
-  Potential Off-Leash Areas



1" = 300'

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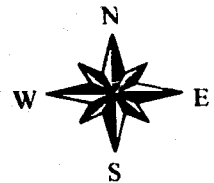


## Woodland Park

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 21, 1997

### LEGEND

-  Parks Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Potential Off-Leash Area



1" = 250'

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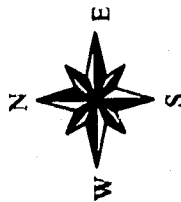


## Magnuson Park

Date of Aerial: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1997

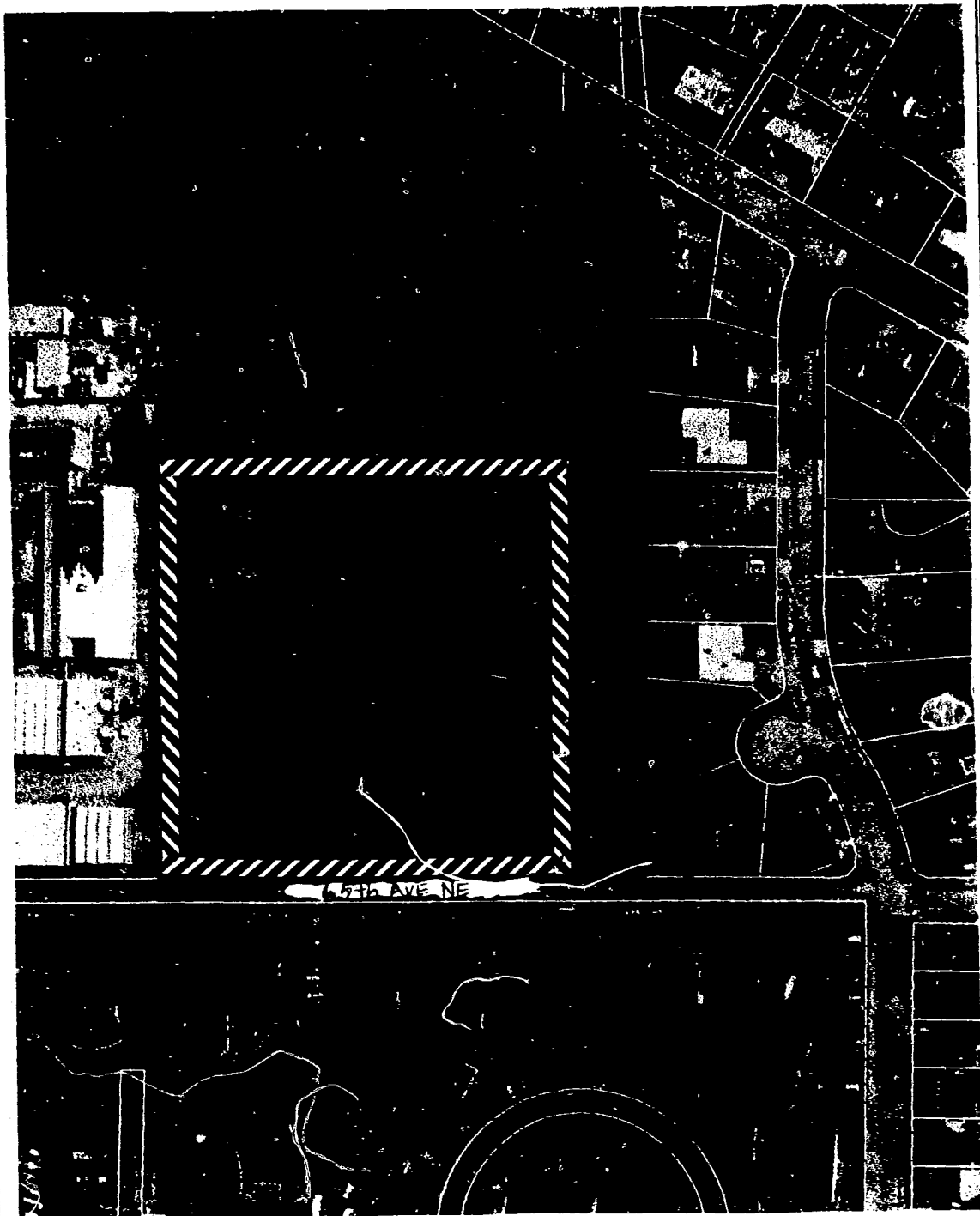
### LEGEND

 Parks Boundary  
 Parcel Boundary  
 Potential Off-Leash Area



1" = 150'

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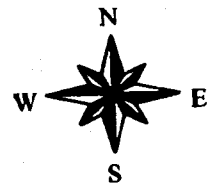


## Transmission Line Site 1

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1993

### LEGEND

Parcel Boundaries  
Potential Off-  
Leash Area



1" = 100'

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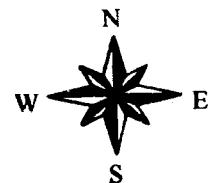


## Transmission Line Site 2

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1993

### LEGEND

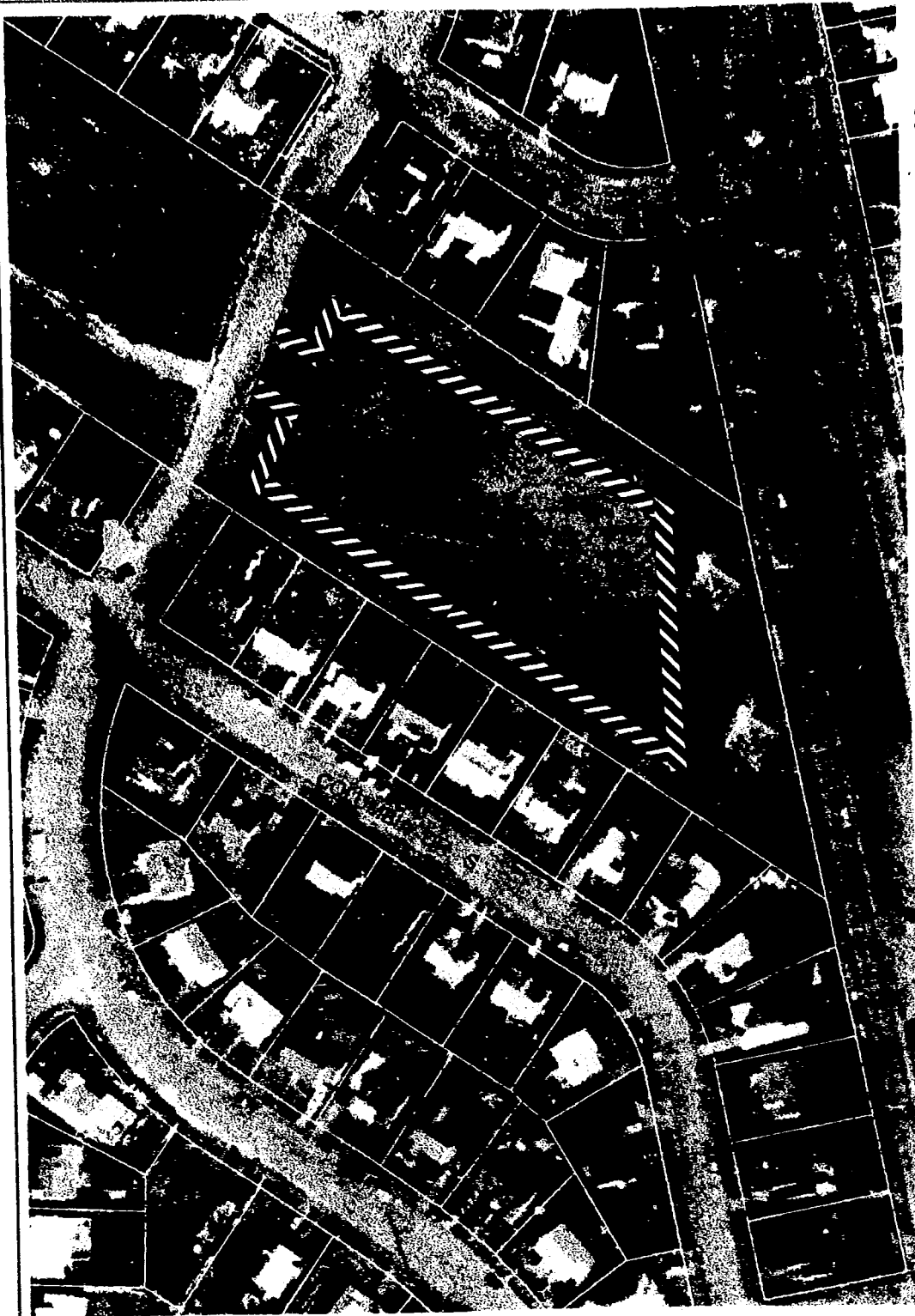
Parcel Boundaries  
Potential Off-  
Leash Area

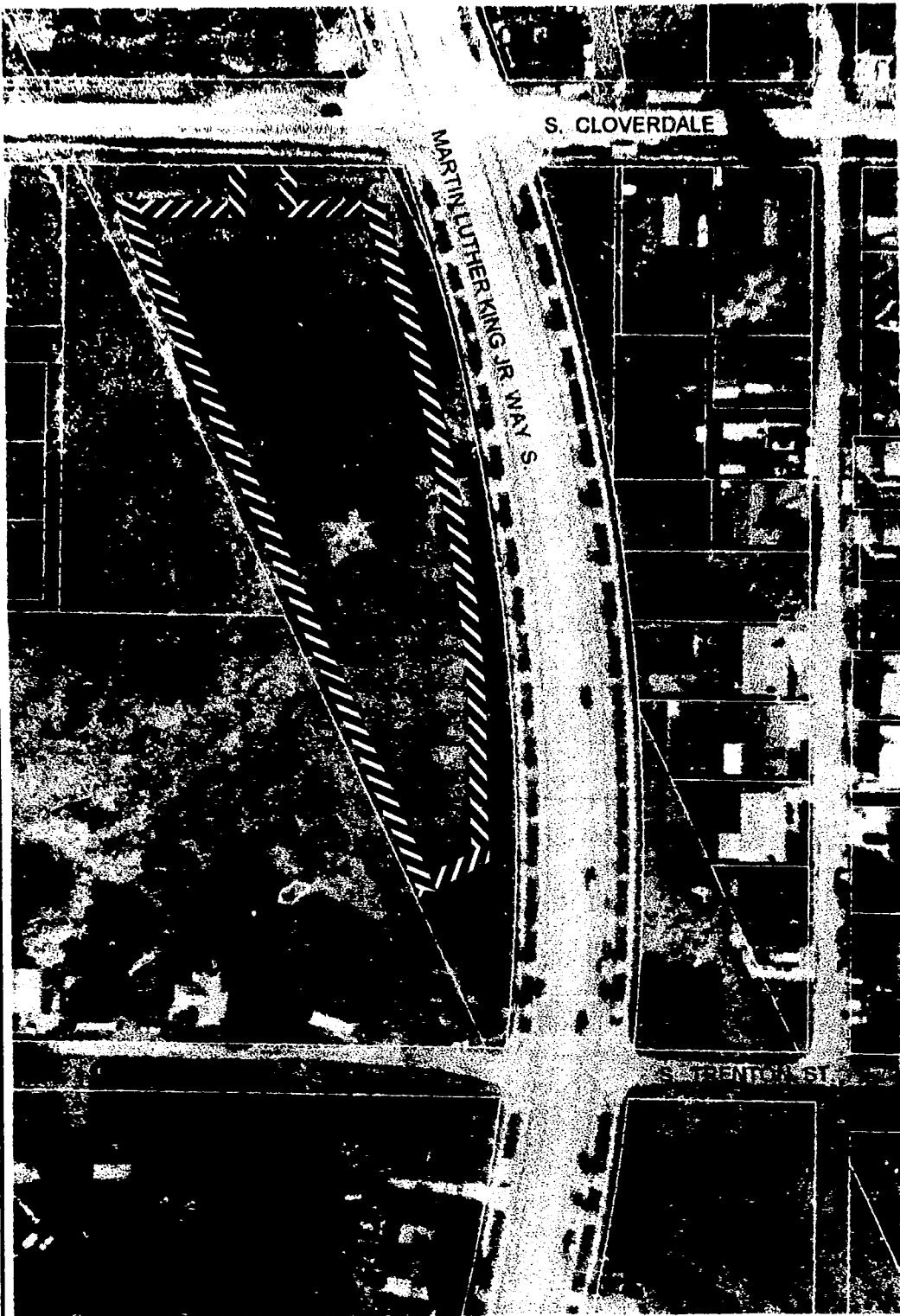


1" = 100'

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# CITY OF SEATTLE

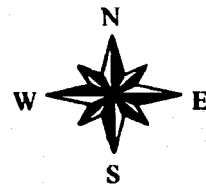


## Transmission Line Site 3

Aerial Taken: March 1993  
Map Produced: July 18, 1999

### LEGEND

Parcel Boundary

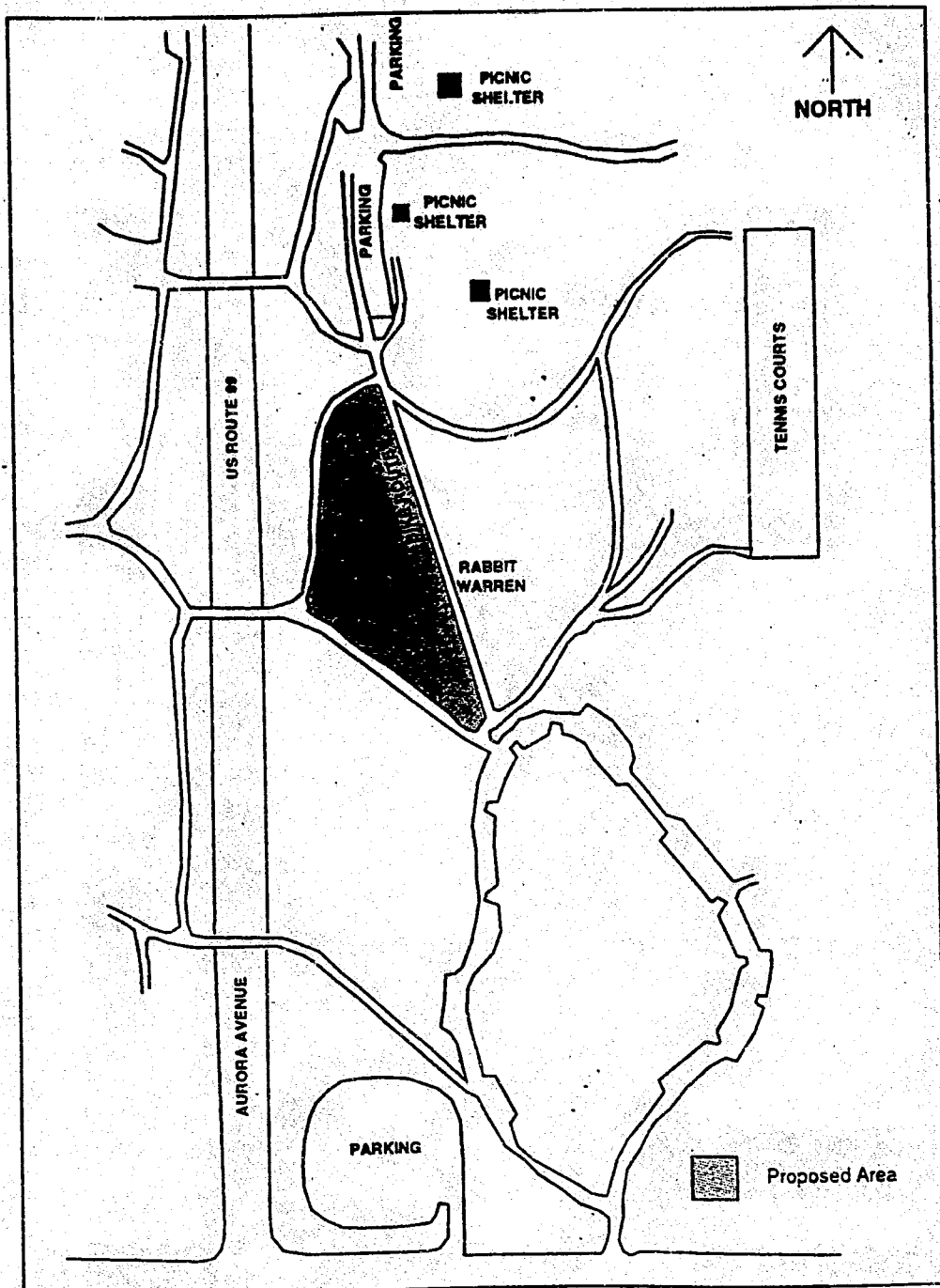


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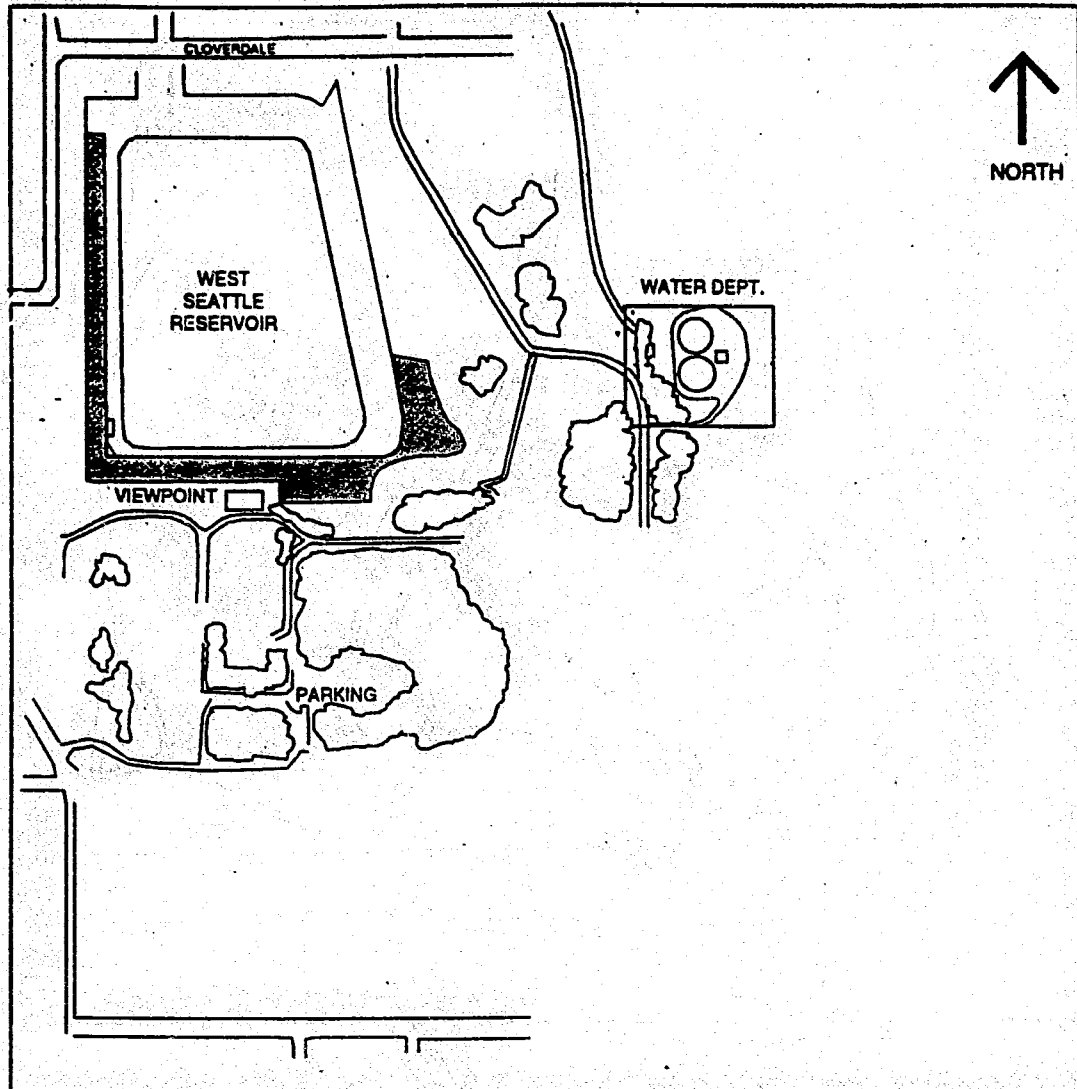
# WOODLAND PARK



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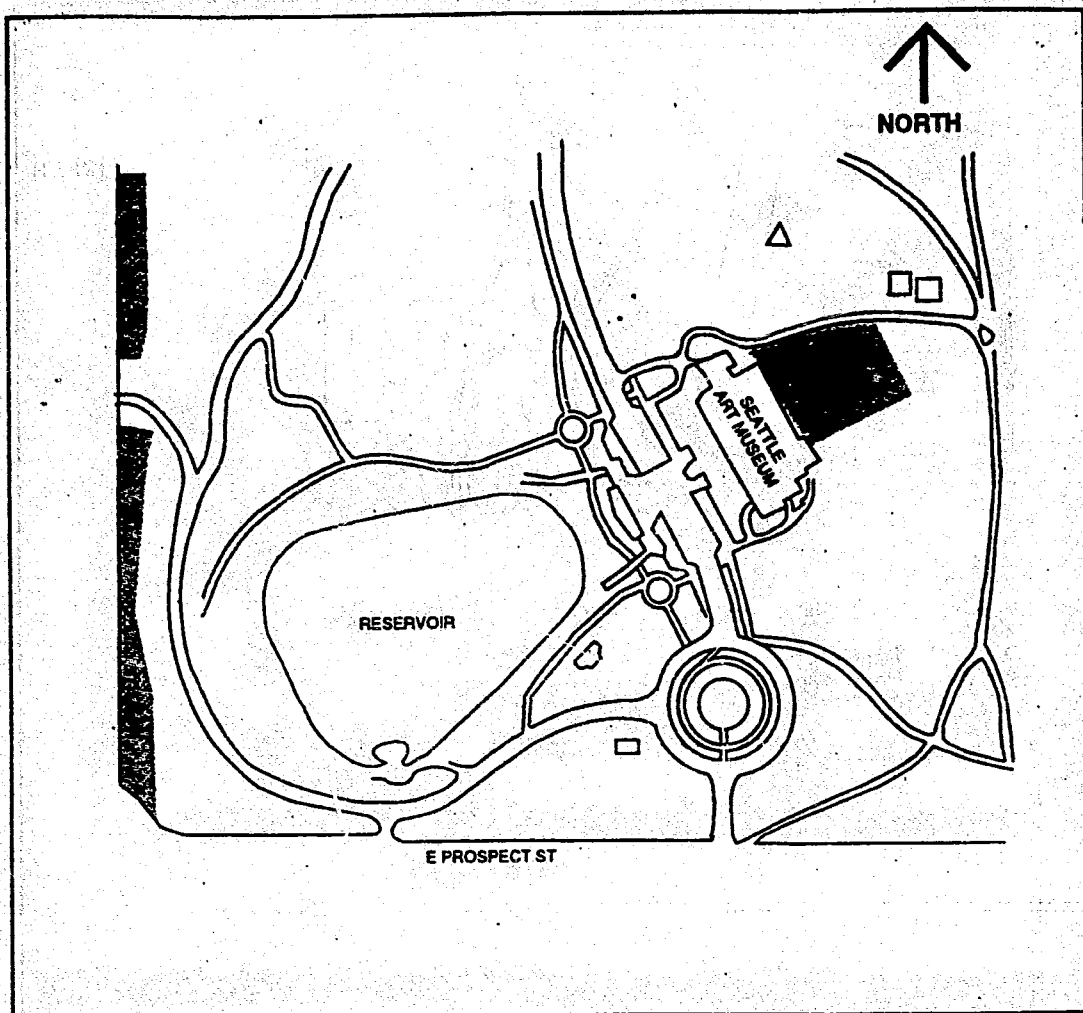


# WESTCREST PARK



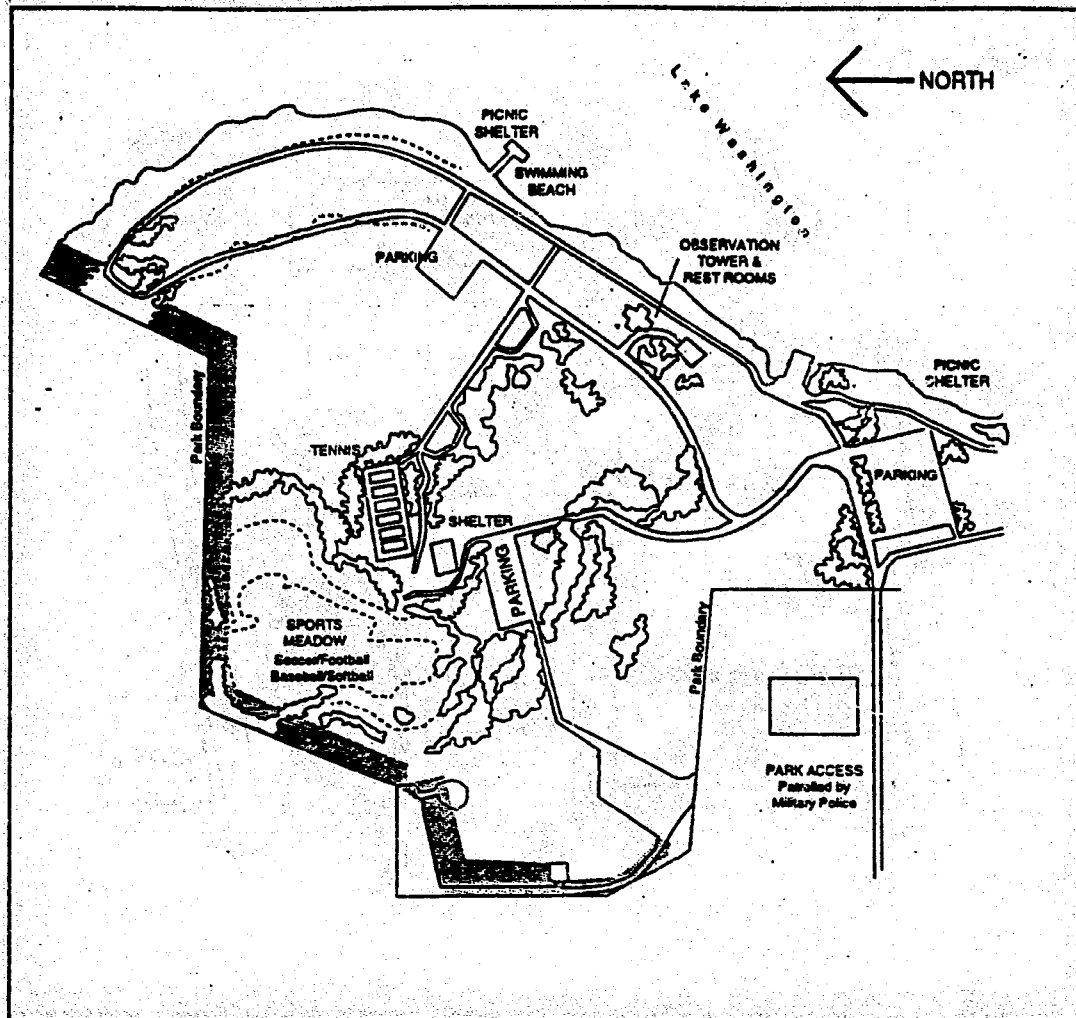
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# VOLUNTEER PARK



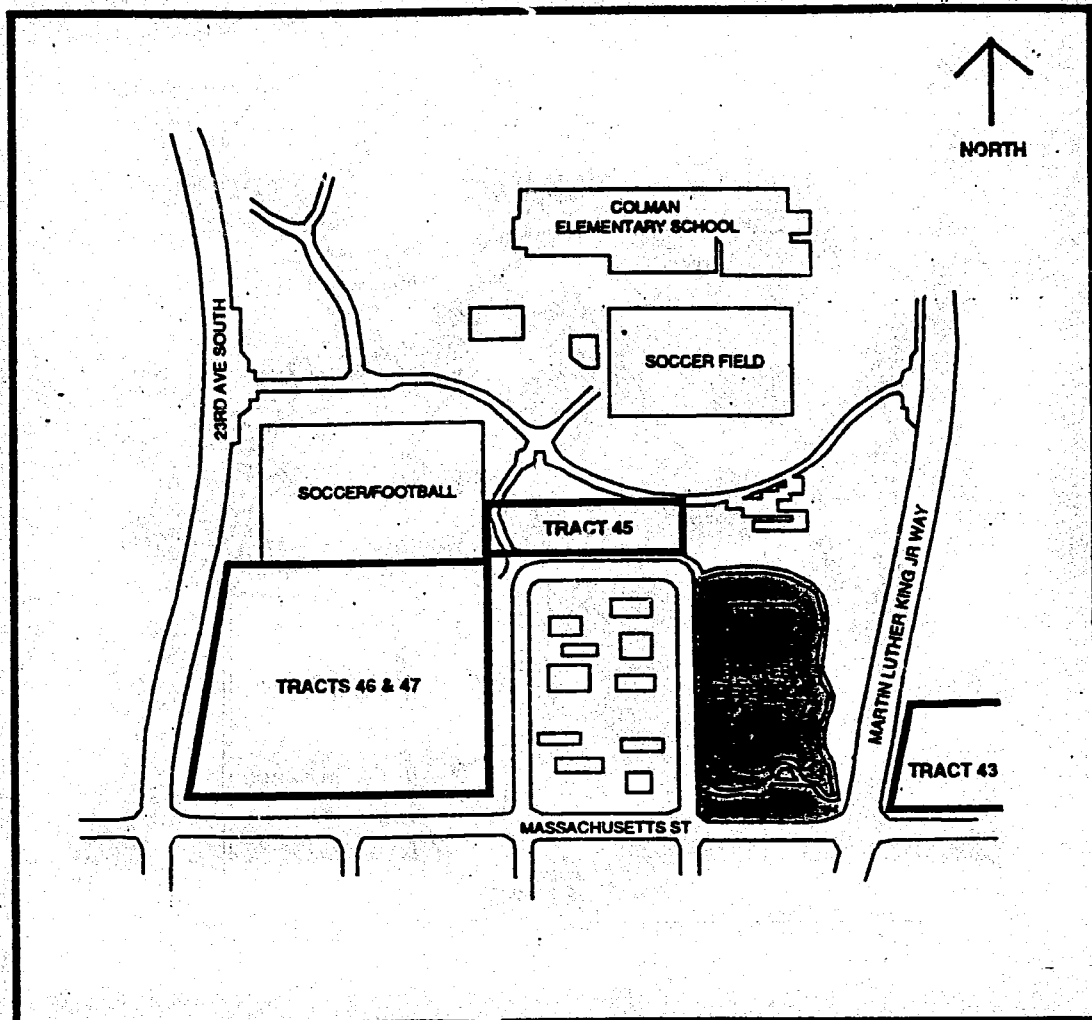
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# WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK



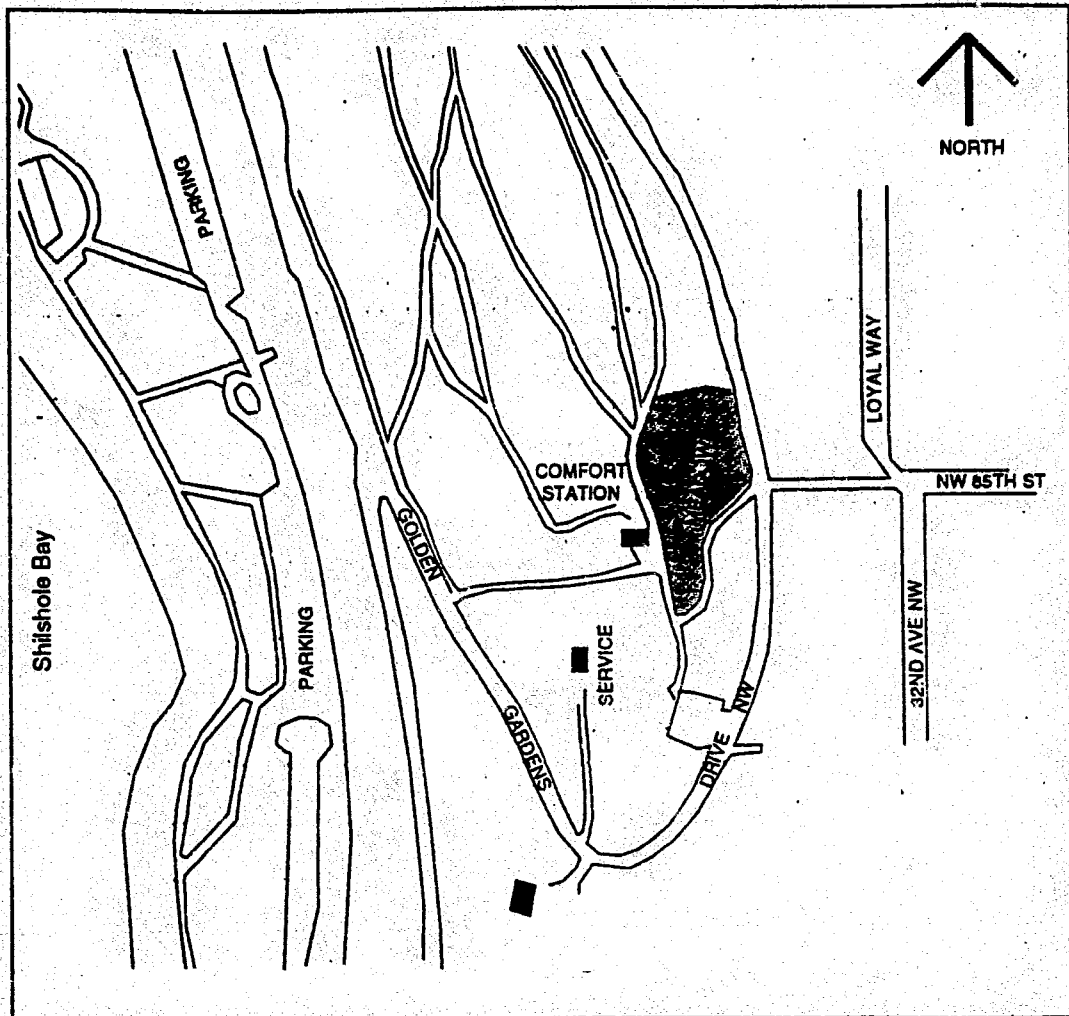
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## I-90 "BLUE DOG POND"



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# GOLDEN GARDENS PARK



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# City of Seattle

Norman B. Rice, Mayor

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation  
Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent

September 2, 1997

The City Council  
City of Seattle

Via: Mayor Norman B. Rice

Attention: Judy Bunnell, Acting Director, Office of Management and Planning

Subject: AN ORDINANCE relating to parks and recreation and animal control;  
amending Sections 9.25.084 and 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code  
to allow off leash dogs in specified areas.

A RESOLUTION adopting a Permanent Dogs-Off-Leash Program in Seattle and authorizing additional evaluation of some of the new sites not previously evaluated in the Pilot Program in 1996-97, and setting forth principles for developing and managing the inventory of specific sites that will be dedicated to Off-Leash Exercise Areas (OLEAs).

Dear Honorable Members:

Attached is a packet of material that includes an ordinance and a resolution creating permanent off-leash areas in selected City parks and on other City properties. Since the pilot program was extended in June, we have completed a Program Assessment (attached) of the pilot program, conducted three workshops, completed an Environmental Checklist (attached) and briefed the Board of Park Commissioners. The Board reviewed the public input from the workshops, the Program Assessment and other input from the public before making a set of recommendations, described in the attached letter from Board Chair Margaret Ceis.

The pilot program was largely a success. We learned much about what works and what doesn't work. We learned that the demand for off-leash areas far exceeds the ability of the park system to satisfy it, without creating significant conflicts with current uses. We learned that off-leash areas become gathering spots for a community of dog owners to meet and socialize. We learned that new sites need to be carefully reviewed (set up as pilots) before we decide whether they become permanent. To be successful the sites need

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fences, water, parking, room to rotate use within the sites; and they need strong and consistent volunteer steward groups.

Enforcement of the leash and "pooper-scooper" laws remains a very big concern for all park users. Many of the concerns raised about off-leash areas were about the lack of enforcement in the park system in general, not in off-leash areas in particular. We learned that off-leash activity is an intensive use -- that is, the areas require management and special maintenance support similar to other intensive uses like ballfields; turf surfaces are degraded because of the intensive use. Off-leash activity is an exclusive use -- once an off-leash area is defined it is not available to park visitors for other purposes. The Program Assessment goes into much more detail about what we learned at each site.

Based on the Program Assessment, public input, personal site visits, and the recommendations of the Board of Park Commissioners, I am recommending the following:

- Golden Gardens, Genesee, Westcrest and Blue Dog Pond pilot sites be converted to permanent off-leash sites. They should be fenced and amenities added to the sites.
- Volunteer Park East (behind the Seattle Asian Art Museum) remain a pilot site until a new site in the Capitol Hill area is identified, or until September 23, 1996, whichever comes sooner. During the extended pilot period, closure of parts of the site or times of operation may be implemented to ensure minimum turf damage. This site should not be a permanent off leash site. Such an intensive and exclusive use that requires fencing and results in major turf damage at this site is inappropriate. It would not be consistent with the original park design and it would clearly diminish the tranquil, unorganized use of the space.
- Volunteer Park West and Central Woodland be closed and not be made permanent off-leash sites. Volunteer Park West is too close to existing residents. A major conflict exists at Central Woodland with an existing use--a cross country running course.
- A new pilot site should be established at Central Woodland, adjacent to the north tennis courts, to be evaluated one year from implementation for its appropriateness as a potential permanent site.
- Magnuson Park, including the beach area, be converted to an "interim" off-leash site; once the Navy property is transferred to the City a new area may be selected and designed as a "off-leash area" within the park boundaries in the context of an overall development plan. The old "Archery Range" site should be considered in the planning process as a potential site.



# City of Seattle

**Norman B. Rice, Mayor**  
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation  
Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent

**August 27, 1997**

**Ken Bounds, Superintendent**  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
100 Dexter Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98109

**Dear Ken:**

In reviewing the status of off leash pilot projects and proposed potential sites, the Board of Park Commissioners was thoroughly briefed by Parks Department staff, held public meetings, attended three public workshops in July, and personally visited the sites.

At the August 14, 1997 Board meeting, recommendations were based on the following considerations:

- Impacts upon other established uses or users in the designated park, i.e. proximity to active areas used for ball fields and playgrounds and to passive areas used for casual visitors, walkers, picnickers, etc.
- The extent of damage to pilot sites and consequent rehabilitation measures required to restore those areas.
- Impacts of the designated use upon the total visual character of the park.
- Location and impacts with respect to wildlife habitats/environmental areas.
- Proximity to residential properties.
- Availability of parking.

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- Acreage designated for each site, design, maintenance and management cost estimates. Maintenance and site development costs presented by staff were general estimates, but are a measure of financial impacts on the city's budget.

After lengthy discussion, the Park Board voted to recommend the following off leash areas:

#### **Pilot Sites in Parks**

**Retain as permanent sites:**

**Genesee Park  
Westcrest Park  
Blue Dog Pond  
Magnuson Park  
Golden Gardens**

Golden Gardens should remain an off leash area subject to satisfactory renovation and management with a re-evaluation in one or two years. There was concern about the significant impacts on the property which is well used, however, it was recognized that this is the only designated site within a large geographic area.

Use of the Magnuson site should be extended until alternatives within the park can be evaluated. There should be coordination with other committees and organizations presently working on plans for Magnuson. Transfer of additional property to the City by the Navy should also be considered as opening other site opportunities.

**Closure of Pilot Sites:**

**Volunteer Park - East and West sites  
Central Woodland Park**

Volunteer Park is an Olmsted designed park and not an appropriate location. The West site has already been closed because of the limited space and close proximity to residences. There is a recognized desire for an off leash site in this heavily populated geographic area and the Park Board urges exploration for other properties outside the park. A deadline for locating another site should be set.

Central Woodland Park site is now essentially a desert with severe impacts on the land and trees (exposed tree roots) as well as on the aesthetics of the total park.

Parks such as Woodland Park and Volunteer Park must be viewed as a total aesthetic experience for the community as well as allowing active uses for participants. Those uses which cause serious deterioration of the environment are not acceptable. The Park Department could fill the parks with ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, off leash areas, etc. to satisfy all the demands of special interest users. The inevitable result would be to destroy the tenuous balance between active and passive uses that presently define the character of our parks. The people of Seattle would not accept this approach.

**Potential New Off Leash Sites in Parks:**

The Board carefully reviewed these proposed sites in detail and found that all of them have significant potential design and environmental problems.

**There was no recommendation for consideration of the following:**

**Central Woodland Park area near Tennis Courts  
Magnuson Park Archery Range  
North Acres Park  
Lower Kinnear  
Interlaken Boulevard East  
Froula Playground**

**Potential New Non-Park Sites:**

**Recommended for further consideration and evaluation:**

**Jefferson Park Reservoir  
City Light Right of Way #2  
City Light Right of Way #3  
East Duwamish Greenbelt**

**Sites Not Recommended:**

**Bitter Lake Reservoir #1  
Bitter Lake Reservoir #2  
City Light Right of Way #1**

**General Recommendations:**

1. **Financial Impacts**  
The Park Board believes it is essential that the city fund off leash areas to an extent that will realistically address the issues of maintenance and management of these sites. In 1996, the Park Board adopted the position that off leash areas should not be located in the city parks. However, if that is not the final decision, then we urge the Mayor and City Council to develop the financial resources to ensure that the Parks Department is not forced to fund this activity from an already committed and limited budget.
2. **Maintenance and design have proven to be significant factors in the success or failure of a site. Fencing, clear signage, appropriate surfaces, and a high level of volunteer activity associated with each site are clearly important and should be given a high priority.**
3. **Animal control and enforcement must be emphasized. Dog owners have the option of using off leash areas or walking their dogs in the parks on a leash. There apparently has been no decrease in the number of complaints and reported incidents of off leash dogs in general park areas since the pilot projects were established. We urge stricter enforcement of the governing ordinances by animal control officers which will require more personnel and better coordination between the Animal Control Division and the Parks Department.**

4. Any new sites should be treated as pilot projects. A process should be established which would include intensive community involvement, design considerations, a specified test period and a subsequent evaluation before the site was made permanent.
5. A user fee should be considered for some easing of the financial impacts. Users of soccer fields, golf courses, tennis courts, scheduled events, etc. presently pay such fees.
6. Private groups and community organizations should be encouraged to develop additional sites by leasing or purchasing appropriate properties.

This has been a complex and time consuming issue. We hope that our recommendations will be of assistance to you in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Ceis*

Margaret Ceis, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

cc: Board of Park Commissioners  
Seattle City Council Members  
Mayor Norm Rice

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## Off Leash Exercise Areas - Estimated Costs of Initial Development and Ongoing Maintenance

Sites	Size (acres)	Development Cost	Annual Maintenance Costs*
Golden Gardens	1.22	\$16,750	\$9,235
Genessee	2.75	\$28,000	\$18,563**
Westcrest	2.5	\$24,025	\$16,875
Blue Dog Pond	2.3	\$12,450	\$16,525
Volunteer Park East	1.25	\$7,750	\$8,438
Magnuson Park Trail	2.25	\$9,900	\$15,188
Magnuson Lake Access	0.5	\$4,950	\$4,375
Central Woodland (near north tennis courts)	1.0	\$9,750	\$6,750
Northacres	1.5	\$9,850	\$10,125
East Duwamish Greenbelt	3.44	\$19,100	\$23,220
Jefferson Park Reservoir	1.54	\$23,250	\$10,395
City Light Site #2	1.8	\$11,300	\$12,150
City Light Site #3	2.06	\$22,900	\$13,905

**\*\*Annual Maintenance** costs include \$1,750/Acre estimated renovation cost to re-establish worn turf, replace missing or damaged furnishings and fencing, etc.

**\*\* Existing Genessee Park site will be closed Fall '97 to Summer '98 for landfill capping project. 1998 Maintenance Costs would be proportionately reduced.**

**Note:** Monitoring, evaluation and site administration costs are estimated to be an additional \$20,000/year.

OLEACOST.ONE

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## OFF LEASH AREAS - Site Development Cost Estimates

### PERMANENT SITES (3 yr. review cycle)

SITE / IMPROVEMENT	Unit Cost	Genesee	Westcrest	Blue Dog Pond	Volunteer Pk E.	Golden Gardens	Magnuson Trail	Ma
SIZE (acres)		2.75	2.5	2.3	1.25	1.22	2.25	
<b>SIGNAGE:</b>								
Lg. Signs / Kiosk	\$500/ea	Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	
Sm. Signs / 12" x 18" parking type	\$100/ea	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS:</b>								
Trash Cans	\$100/ea	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	
Water Source	\$2-5K LS	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,000		(ex.) \$2,000	NA	
Benches	\$600/ea	(4) \$2,400	(4) \$2,400	(2) \$1,200	(3) \$1,800	(3) \$1,800	(6) \$2,400	
Picnic Tables	\$1000/ea	(2) \$2,000	(2) \$2,000		(1) \$700	(1) \$1,000		
<b>FENCING:</b>								
Split rail / two rail, cedar	\$8/lf	(1600lf) \$12,800						
Mesh liner for split rail	\$3/lf	(1600lf) \$4,800				(300lf) \$900		
4' chain link, plain	\$12/lf		(1000lf) \$12,000					
4' chain link, black vinyl	\$16/lf			(500lf) \$8,000		(300lf) \$4,800		
4' wire mesh	\$20/lf							
4' wrought iron	\$25/lf							
Gates, 3'	\$250/ea	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500		
Gates, 12'	\$750/ea	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750		
Rental Chain Link 6'	\$5/lf/yr				(800lf) \$4,000		(1000lf) \$5,000	
<b>SURFACING:</b>								
Turf, hydroseed	\$.25/sf							
Chips, ave. 2" depth	\$.50/sf	(2000sf) \$1,000	(2000sf) \$1,000					
Crushed Rock, ave. 2" depth	\$.75/sf	(1000sf) \$750	(500sf) \$375					
Chips, up to 12" depth	\$50/cy						(50cy) \$2,500	
Turf/Chips/Drain Field	LS					\$5,000		
Sand & Filter Fabric	LS							

## AS - Si

### cycle)

Genesee
2.75
Exists
Ex.
Ex.
Ex.
(1600lf) \$12,800
(1600lf) \$4,800
(2) \$500
(1) \$750
(2000sf) \$1,000
(1000sf) \$750

S - Site Development Cost Estimates							
(a)							
Genesee	Westcrest	Blue Dog Pond	Volunteer Pk E.	Golden Gardens	Magnuson Trail	Magnuson Beach	COMMENTS:
2.75	2.5	2.3	1.25	1.22	2.25	0.5	
Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	Exists	
Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	
Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	
\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,000		(ex.) \$2,000	NA	NA	
(4) \$2,400	(4) \$2,400	(2) \$1,200	(3) \$1,800	(3) \$1,800	(6) \$2,400	(2) \$1,200	
(2) \$2,000	(2) \$2,000		(1) \$700	(1) \$1,000			
(1600lf) \$12,800							
(1600lf) \$4,800				(300lf) \$900			
	(1000lf) \$12,000						
		(500lf) \$8,000		(300lf) \$4,800			
(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500			
(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750			
			(800lf) \$4,000		(1000lf) \$5,000	(350lf) \$1750/yr	
(2000sf) \$1,000	(2000sf) \$1,000						
(1000sf) \$750	(500sf) \$375						
					(50cy) \$2,500		
				\$5,000			
						\$2,000	

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<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$28,000	\$24,025	\$12,450	\$7,750	\$16,750	
<b>NEW SITES (1 yr. pilot)</b>							
<b>SITE / IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>East Duwamish G.B.</b>	<b>Jefferson Park Reservoir</b>	<b>City Light ROW Site #2</b>	<b>City Light ROW Site #3</b>	<b>Woodland Park Tennis Courts</b>	
<b>SIZE (Acres)</b>		<b>3.44</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>SIGNAGE:</b>							
Lg. Sign: Kiosk	\$500/ea	(1) \$500	(1) \$500	(1) \$500	(1) \$500	(relocate) \$200	
Sm. Sign: 12" x 18" parking type	\$100/ea	(2) \$200	(1) \$100	(1) \$100	(1) \$100		
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS:</b>							
Trash Cans	\$100/ea	(8) \$800	(4) \$400	(4) \$400	(6) \$600	exists	
Water Source	\$2-5K LS						
Benches	\$600/ea	(6) \$3,600	(2) \$1,200	(2) \$1,200	(4) \$2,400	(3) \$1,800	
Picnic Tables	\$1000/ea	(2) \$2,000	(1) \$1,000	(1) \$1,000	(2) \$2,000	(1) \$1,000	
<b>FENCING:</b>							
Split rail / two rails, cedar	\$8/lf						
Mesh liner for split rail	\$3/lf						
4' chain link, plain	\$12/lf						
4' chain link, black vinyl	\$16/lf						
4' wire mesh	\$20/lf						
4' wrought iron	\$25/lf						
Gates, 3'	\$250/ea	(4) \$1,000	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	
Gates, 12'	\$750/ea	(2) \$1,500	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	
Rental Chain Link 6'	\$5/lf/yr	(200lf) \$1,000/yr	(1560lf) \$7,800/yr	(1170lf) \$5,850/yr	(1410lf) \$7,050/yr	(900lf) \$4,500/yr	
<b>SURFACING:</b>							
Turf, hydroseed	\$.25/sf						
Chips, ave. 2" depth	\$.50/sf	(5000sf) \$2,500	(2000sf) \$1,000	(2000sf) \$1,000	(2000sf) \$1,000	(2000sf) \$1,000	
Crushed Rock, ave. 2" depth	\$.75/sf						
<b>PARKING:</b>							
Crushed Rock, ave 6" depth	\$1,000/car	(6) \$6,000	(10) \$10,000		(8) \$8,000		

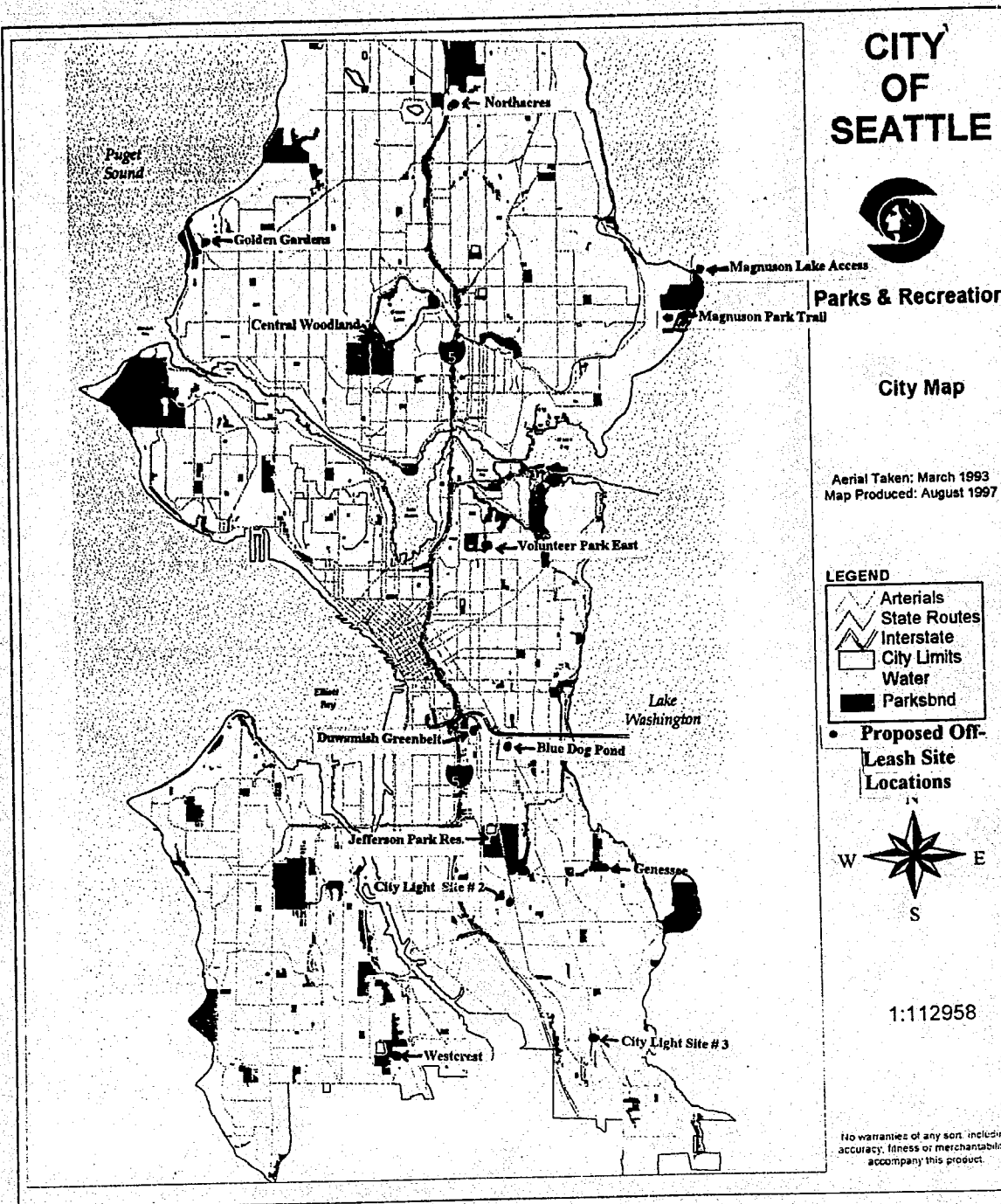
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<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$19,100</b>	<b>\$23,250</b>	<b>\$11,300</b>	<b>\$22,900</b>	<b>\$9,750</b>	
<b>Renovation &amp; Maintenance Costs</b>							
<b>SITE (Permanent)</b>	<b>Unit Costs</b>	<b>Genesee</b>	<b>Westcrest</b>	<b>Blue Dog Pond</b>	<b>Volunteer Fk E.</b>	<b>Golden Gardens</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>SIZE (acres)</b>		<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.22</b>	
<b>Renovation (each year after 1st year)</b>	\$1750/ac/yr	\$4,813	\$4,375	\$4,025	\$2,188	\$2,135	
<b>Maintenance (each year)</b>	\$5000/ac/yr	\$13,750	\$12,500	\$11,500	\$6,250	\$6,100	
<b>Water Quality Sampling @ (3 times per year)</b>	\$1000/site/yr			\$1,000		\$1,000	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$18,563</b>	<b>\$16,875</b>	<b>\$16,525</b>	<b>\$8,438</b>	<b>\$9,235</b>	
<b>SITE (New)</b>		<b>East Duwamish G.B.</b>	<b>Jefferson Park Reservoir</b>	<b>City Light ROW Site #2</b>	<b>City Light ROW Site #3</b>	<b>Woodland Park Tennis Courts</b>	
<b>SIZE (Acres)</b>		<b>3.44</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Renovation (each year after 1st year)</b>	\$1750/ac/yr	\$6,020	\$2,695	\$3,150	\$3,605	\$1,750	
<b>Maintenance (each year)</b>	\$5000/ac/yr	\$17,200	\$7,700	\$9,000	\$10,300	\$5,000	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$23,220</b>	<b>\$10,395</b>	<b>\$12,150</b>	<b>\$13,905</b>	<b>\$6,750</b>	
<b>Notes: Renovation cost includes re-establishing worn turf areas, replacing missing or damaged fencing, etc. Existing Genesee site will be</b>							

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- New pilot sites should be considered at North Acres Park, East Duwamish Greenbelt (mostly WSDOT property), Jefferson Park Reservoir (SPU), and City Light sites #2 and #3. These sites will be developed only after an agreement is signed between the Department of Parks and Recreation, the property owner, and Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA), and a community process has been conducted. Each site will remain in operation for one year, and be evaluated for consideration as a permanent site at that time.
- Lower Kinnear, Interlaken Boulevard East, Froula Playground, City Light Right-of-Way #1, and the two Bitter Lake Reservoir sites will not be considered as permanent sites.

The 1998 Budget will require resources to implement these recommendations. Attached is a budget table that delineates the initial cost of development of the various sites, and the annual ongoing cost of maintenance. Funding will be necessary in order for us to implement this set of recommendations.

COLA's participation is critical to the ongoing success of the off-leash program. We recommend that COLA incorporate as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, and assist us in managing the voluntary work necessary to make each of these sites successful on a sustained basis. We encourage COLA to investigate non-park properties as potential off-leash sites, and negotiate with the property owner and Animal Control to establish other legal off-leash sites. Future expansion of the program will largely depend on COLA's efforts.

Finally, enforcement of off leash and scoop laws in the remainder of the park system needs to be strengthened.

If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please either contact me (4-8022) or Dewey Potter (4-7187).

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Bounds

attachments:      Program Assessment  
                          Environmental Checklist and DNS  
                          Park Board Recommendations  
                          Budget Table  
                          Map of Off Leash Areas

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cc: Board of Park Commissioners  
Judy Bunnell  
Kris Castleman  
Dwight Dively Attn: Donald Jordan  
Dewey Potter

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Confirmed  
work by  
Bryan Glenn  
+ Bc

ORDINANCE 111869

AN ORDINANCE relating to parks and recreation and animal control; amending Sections 9.25.084 and 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code to allow off leash dogs in specified areas.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection A of Section 9.54.084 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which Section was last amended by Ordinance 116694, is further amended as follows:

**Section 9.25.084 Offenses relating to control.**

It is unlawful for the owner to:

A. Permit any potbelly pig, domestic animal, except cats and pigeons, to be at large or trespass upon the property of another; provided, that pets may be removed from the premises of the owner if restrained by a leash that is eight (8) feet or shorter, and if in the physical control of a person. It is not a violation of this subsection to have a dog off-leash in an area designated pursuant to Section 18.12.080 as an off-leash area provided that the requirements of subsection 18.12.080 B. are met.

Section 2. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638, is further amended as follows:

**Section 18.12.080 Animals running at large prohibited.**

Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond, fountain, stream, organized athletics area, or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may ban dogs and other

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1 pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the same may be a  
2 nuisance.

3 B. A pilot off-leash program shall be established under the administration of Seattle Animal  
4 Control, a subdivision of the Department of the Executive Services Department (Exhibit H, attached to  
5 Ordinance 118099 and on file in the city clerk's office). Given that the City's determination of  
6 nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent Dog Off-Leash Exercise Area has been  
7 appealed, the pilot off-leash program shall continue in effect for a period ending on the date a decision  
8 affirming the DNS is filed with the City Clerk or, in the alternative, for a period ending sixty (60) days after  
9 a final environmental impact statement (EIS) is issued. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the  
10 following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas:

- 11 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 A;
- 12 2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 B;
- 13 3. That portion of Lower Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 C;
- 14 4. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 D;
- 15 5. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 E;
- 16 6. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 F; and
- 17 7. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as  
18 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 G.

19 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by means of  
20 an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice control over the dog  
21 at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be licensed and must display valid  
22 license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are  
23 not permitted to use the off-leash areas.  
24

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1 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any park  
2 shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing feces, and  
3 shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

4 D. The Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under  
5 subsection B on a temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved  
6 jointly by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Seattle Animal Control and if the Superintendent  
7 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
8 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
9 Director of the Executive Services Department. The Superintendent shall state in writing his other reasons  
10 for closure.

11 Section 3. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638, is  
12 further amended as follows:

13 **Section 18.12.080 Animals running at large prohibited.**

14 Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit  
15 any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash,  
16 except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and under control  
17 of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond, fountain, stream,  
18 organized athletics area or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may ban dogs and other  
19 pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the same may be a  
20 nuisance.

21 B. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash  
22 areas:  
23  
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- 1 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 H;
- 2 2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 I;
- 3 3. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 J until title to that portion of the
- 4 Navy property at Sand Point intended for Parks and Recreation purposes is transferred to the
- 5 City and the Use Plan for that portion of the property has been completed and adopted;
- 6 4. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 K will be extended until
- 7 October 25, 1998, or until another site on Capitol Hill is secured and opened. No later than ~~April~~ <sup>March</sup>
- 8 15, 1998, the Department of Parks and Recreation, following consultation with the Office of
- 9 Management and Planning and COLA, shall submit at least three alternative sites (one of which
- 10 may include rotation of the Volunteer Park area) to the Council for consideration as a
- 11 <sup>not</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>re: s.3</sup> replacement for the Volunteer Park site. After appropriate public hearings and review, the
- 12 Council will make a final decision on a Capitol Hill site no later than July 30, 1998.
- 13 5. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 L
- 14 6. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as
- 15 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 M;
- 16 7. That portion of Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 N; provided that this site may
- 17 not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship agreement
- 18 concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;
- 19 8. That portion of City Light Right of Way #2 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 O; provided that this
- 20 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 21 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;
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- 1 9. That portion of City Light Right of Way #3 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 P; provided that this
- 2 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 3 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 4 10. That portion of the East Duwamish Greenbelt depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 Q; provided that
- 5 this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 6 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 7 11. That portion of Northacres Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 R; provided that this site may
- 8 not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship agreement
- 9 concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 10 12. That portion of Jefferson Park Reservoir depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 S; provided that this
- 11 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 12 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

13 It is the intention of the City Council that only ONE of the sites on North Beacon Hill, either City  
14 Light Right of Way # 2 (# 8 above), East Duwamish Greenbelt (# 10 above), or Jefferson Park Reservoir (#  
15 12 above) be developed as an off-leash site at this time and that the site selected be used as an off-leash area  
16 only after an appropriate neighborhood process has taken place, a local "stewardship" group has been  
17 formed under the auspices of COLA, *or another appropriate group,* and an agreement signed.

18 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by means of  
19 an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice control over the dog  
20 at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be licensed and must display valid  
21 license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are  
22 not permitted to use the off-leash areas.  
23  
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1 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any park  
2 shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing feces, and  
3 shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

4 D. The Superintendent shall review the impacts of off-leash activities at sites seven (7) through  
5 twelve (12) after 18 months of operations at each site. In the case of non-park sites, this review shall include  
6 consultation with the City Department with authority over the site. If, based on this review, the  
7 Superintendent finds significant problems that can not be practically corrected, the Superintendent may  
8 close the site to off-leash use. In addition to any action taken pursuant to the review described above, the  
9 Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under subsection B on a  
10 temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved jointly by the  
11 Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Animal Control, and COLA, and if the Superintendent  
12 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
13 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
14 Director of the Executive Services Department. The Superintendent shall state in writing his other reasons  
15 for closure.

16 Prior to any permanent closure, the Superintendent shall give thirty (30) days written notice, to be  
17 posted at the site, stating the reason(s) for the closure and shall conduct one or more public hearings on the  
18 proposed closure.

19 Moreover, the Superintendent is authorized to manage all off-leash sites and this authority shall  
20 include, but not be limited to, the authority to make minor alterations to site boundaries after reasonable  
21 notice to the public, impose operating hours and curtail use at sites as necessary for renovation, repair or  
22 for other operational reasons.  
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1 Section 4. Use, prior to the effective date of this ordinance, of any off-leash area in a manner that  
2 was lawful prior to September 22, 1997 is hereby ratified and confirmed.

3 Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval  
4 by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall  
5 take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020. Provided, however, that, given that the City's  
6 determination of nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent Dog Off-Leash Exercise  
7 Area has been appealed, then Section 3 above shall not take effect until the date a decision affirming the DNS  
8 is filed with the City Clerk. Provided further, that in the event that any appeal of the DNS results in a  
9 requirement that an environmental impact statement (EIS) be prepared, then Section 3 above shall not take  
10 effect.

11 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997, and signed by me in open session in  
12 authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997.

13  
14 President \_\_\_\_ of the City Council

15 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997.

16  
17 \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

18 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997.

19  
20 \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk

21 (Seal)  
22  
23  
24

1 Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its  
2 approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after  
3 presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020. Provided, however, that,  
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5 Permanent Dog Off-Leash Exercise Area is appealed, then Section 3 above shall not take effect until the  
6 date a decision affirming the DNS is filed with the City Clerk. Provided further, that in the event that any  
7 appeal of the DNS results in a requirement that an environmental impact statement (EIS) be prepared, then  
8 Section 3 above shall not take effect.

9 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997, and signed by me in open  
10 session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

11  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

14 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Mayor

17 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 City Clerk

20 (Seal)  
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ORDINANCE 11869

AN ORDINANCE relating to parks and recreation and animal control, amending Sections 9.25.084 and 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code to allow off leash dogs in specified areas.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection A of Section 9.54.084 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which Section was last amended by Ordinance 116694, is further amended as follows:

**Section 9.25.084 Offenses relating to control.**

It is unlawful for the owner to:

A. Permit any potbelly pig, domestic animal, except cats and pigeons, to be at large or trespass upon the property of another; provided, that pets may be removed from the premises of the owner if restrained by a leash that is eight (8) feet or shorter, and if in the physical control of a person. It is not a violation of this subsection to have a dog off-leash in an area designated pursuant to Section 18.12.080 as an off-leash area provided that the requirements of subsection 18.12.080 B. are met.

Section 2. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638, is further amended as follows:

**Section 18.12.080 Animal running at large prohibited.**

Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and

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1 under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond,  
2 fountain, stream, organized athletics area, or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may  
3 ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she  
4 determines the same may be a nuisance.

5 B. A pilot off-leash program shall be established under the administration of Seattle Animal  
6 Control, a subdivision of the Department of the Executive Services Department (Exhibit H, attached to  
7 Ordinance 118099 and on file in the city clerk's office). Given that the City's determination of  
8 nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent Dog Off-Leash Exercise Area has been  
9 appealed, the pilot off-leash program shall continue in effect for a period ending on the date a decision  
10 affirming the DNS is filed with the City Clerk or, in the alternative, for a period ending sixty (60) days  
11 after a final environmental impact statement (EIS) is issued. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only  
12 in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas:

- 13 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 A;
- 14 2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 B;
- 15 3. That portion of Lower Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 C;
- 16 4. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 D;
- 17 5. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 E;
- 18 6. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 F; and
- 19 7. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as  
20 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 G.

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1 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by  
2 means of an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice  
3 control over the dog at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be  
4 licensed and must display valid license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in  
5 Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are not permitted to use the off-leash areas.

6 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any  
7 park shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing  
8 feces, and shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

9 D. The Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under  
10 subsection B on a temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved  
11 jointly by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Seattle Animal Control and if the Superintendent  
12 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
13 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
14 Director of the Executive Services Department. The Superintendent shall state in writing his other  
15 reasons for closure.

16 Section 3. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638,  
17 is further amended as follows:

18 **Section 18.12.080 Animals running at large prohibited.**

19 Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or  
20 permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without  
21 a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and  
22 under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond,  
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1 fountain, stream, organized athletics area or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may  
2 ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she  
3 determines the same may be a nuisance.

4 B. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash  
5 areas:

- 6 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((A)) H;
- 7 2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((B)) I;
- 8 3. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 J until title to that portion of  
9 the Navy property at Sand Point intended for Parks and Recreation purposes is transferred to  
10 the City and the Use Plan for that portion of the property has been completed and adopted;
- 11 4. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 K will be extended for  
12 one year or until another site on Capitol Hill is secured and opened, whichever is earlier. No  
13 later that April 15, 1998, the Department of Parks and Recreation, following consultation  
14 with the Office of Management and Planning and COLA, shall submit at least three  
15 alternative sites (one of which may include rotation of the Volunteer Park area) to the  
16 Council for consideration as a replacement for the Volunteer Park site;
- 17 5. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080((F)) L
- 18 6. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as  
19 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 M;
- 20 7. That portion of Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 N; provided that this site  
21 may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
22 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;
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- 1 8. That portion of City Light Right of Way #2 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 O; provided that
- 2 this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 3 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;
- 4 9. That portion of City Light Right of Way #3 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 P; provided that
- 5 this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a
- 6 stewardship agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 7 10. That portion of the East Duwamish Greenbelt depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 Q; provided
- 8 that this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a
- 9 stewardship agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 10 11. That portion of Northacres Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 R; provided that this site
- 11 may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 12 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 13 12. That portion of Jefferson Park Reservoir depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 S; provided that this
- 14 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship
- 15 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.
- 16 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by
- 17 means of an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice
- 18 control over the dog at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be
- 19 licensed and must display valid license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in
- 20 Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are not permitted to use the off-leash areas.
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1 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any  
2 park shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing  
3 feces, and shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

4 D. The Superintendent shall review the impacts of off-leash activities at sites seven (7) through  
5 twelve (12) after 18 months of operations at each site. In the case of non-park sites, this review shall  
6 include consultation with the City Department with authority over the site. If, based on this review, the  
7 Superintendent finds significant problems that can not be practically corrected, the Superintendent may  
8 close the site to off-leash use. In addition to any action taken pursuant to the review described above,  
9 the Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under subsection B on a  
10 temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved jointly by the  
11 Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Animal Control, and COLA, and if the Superintendent  
12 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
13 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
14 Director of the Executive Services Department. The Superintendent shall state in writing his other  
15 reasons for closure.

16 Prior to any permanent closure, the Superintendent shall give thirty (30) days written notice, to  
17 be posted at the site, stating the reason(s) for the closure and shall conduct one or more public hearings  
18 on the proposed closure.

19 Moreover, the Superintendent is authorized to manage all off-leash sites and this authority shall  
20 include, but not be limited to, the authority to make minor alterations to site boundaries after reasonable  
21 notice to the public, impose operating hours and curtail use at sites as necessary for renovation, repair  
22 or for other operational reasons.  
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1 Section 4. Use, prior to the effective date of this ordinance, of any off-leash area in a manner  
2 that was lawful prior to September 22, 1997 is hereby ratified and confirmed.

3 Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its  
4 approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after  
5 presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020. Provided, however, that,  
6 given that the City's determination of nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent  
7 Dog Off-Leash Exercise Area has been appealed, then Section 3 above shall not take effect until the date a  
8 decision affirming the DNS is filed with the City Clerk. Provided further, that in the event that any appeal  
9 of the DNS results in a requirement that an environmental impact statement (EIS) be prepared, then  
10 Section 3 above shall not take effect.

11 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997, and signed by me in open  
12 session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997.

13  
14 President \_\_\_\_ of the City Council

15  
16 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997.

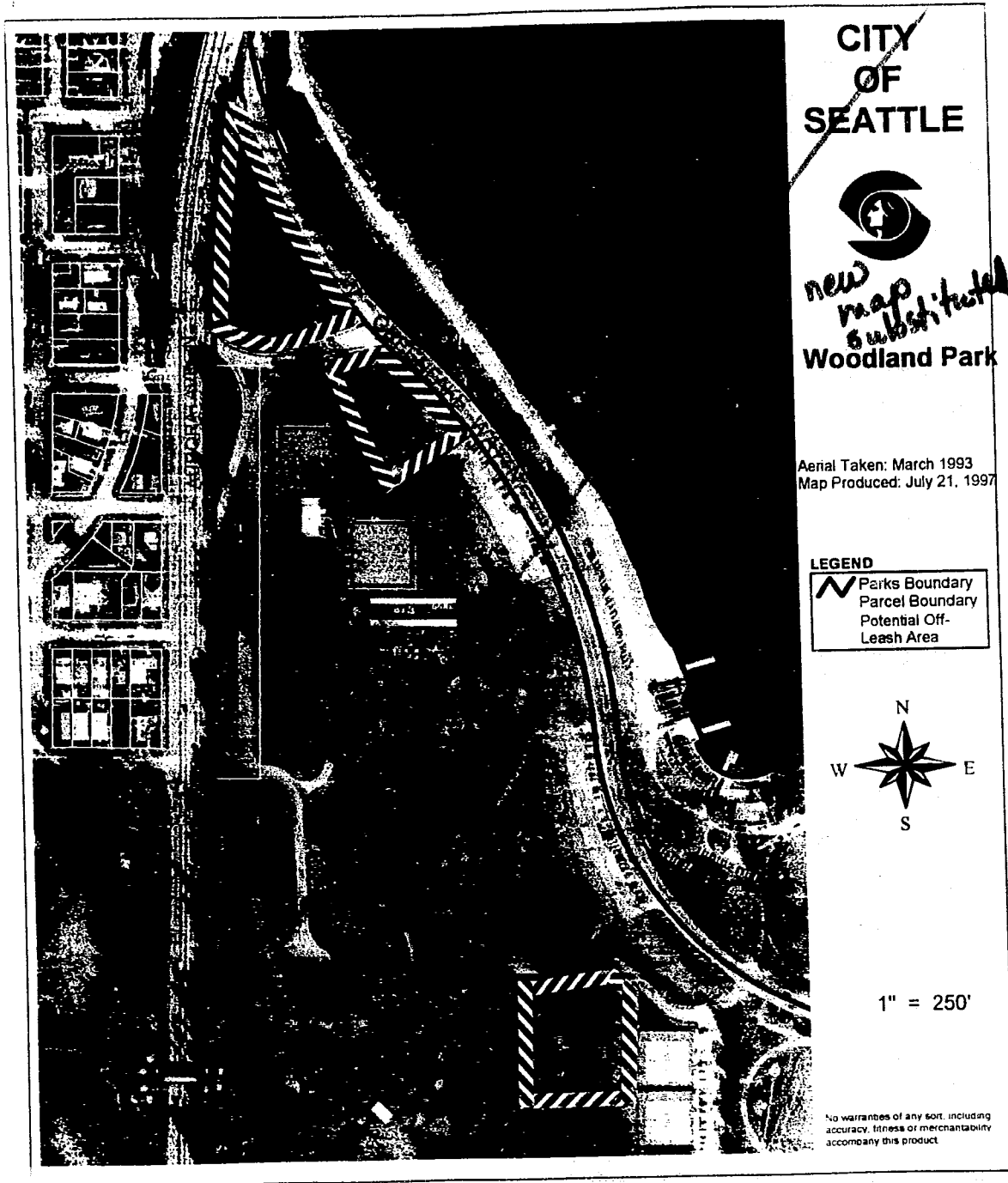
17  
18 Mayor

19 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1997.

20  
21 City Clerk

22 (Seal)  
23  
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Section 1. Subsection A of Section 9.54.084 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which Section was last amended by Ordinance 116694, is further amended as follows:

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It is unlawful for the owner to:

A. Permit any potbelly pig, domestic animal, except cats and pigeons, to be at large or trespass upon the property of another; provided, that pets may be removed from the premises of the owner if restrained by a leash that is eight (8) feet or shorter, and if in the physical control of a person(s). It is not a violation of this subsection to have a dog off-leash in an area designated pursuant to Section 18.12.080 as an off-leash area provided that the requirements of subsection 18.12.080 B. are met.

Section 2. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 116638, is further amended as follows:

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1 under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond,  
2 fountain, stream, ~~((or))~~ organized athletics area, or designated children's play area. The Superintendent  
3 may ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she  
4 determines the same may be a nuisance.

5 B. A pilot off-leash program shall be established under the administration of Seattle Animal  
6 Control, a subdivision of the Department of the Executive Services Department (Exhibit H, attached to  
7 Ordinance 118099 and on file in the city clerk's office). ~~((During a twelve (12) month period beginning  
8 thirty (30) days from the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section, but not before  
9 installation of required kiosks, signage and fencing, where applicable, and for an additional ninety (90)  
10 days ending September 22, 1997, with certain modifications described below, )) In the event that the  
11 City's determination of nonsignificance (DNS) issued August 21, 1997 for the Permanent Dog Off-Leash  
12 Exercise Area is appealed, the pilot off-leash program shall continue in effect for a period ending on  
13 the date a decision affirming the DNS is filed with the City Clerk or, in the alternative, for a period  
14 ending sixty (60) days after a final environmental impact statement (EIS) is issued. Dogs may be  
15 allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas:~~

- 16 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 A;
- 17 2. That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 B;
- 18 3. That portion of Lower Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 C;
- 19 4. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 D;
- 20 5. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080 E;
- 21 6. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 F; and

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1 7. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid Park as  
2 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 G.

3 ((For the period of the ninety (90) day extension, Area No. 5 (Volunteer Park), above, is  
4 modified as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 E and the off-leash area remaining in Area No. 5 shall be  
5 open only from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.))

6 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by  
7 means of an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice  
8 control over the dog at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be  
9 licensed and must display valid license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in  
10 Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are not permitted to use the off-leash areas.

11 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any  
12 park shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing  
13 feces, and shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

14 D. The Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under  
15 subsection B on a temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved  
16 jointly by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Seattle Animal Control and if the Superintendent  
17 determines that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment,  
18 public health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the  
19 Director of the Executive Services Department ((of Finance)). The Superintendent shall state in writing  
20 his other reasons for closure.

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1 Section 3. Section 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118638,  
2 is further amended as follows:

3 **Section 18.12.080 Animals running at large prohibited.**

4 Except as expressly allowed in subsection B hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or  
5 permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without  
6 a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and  
7 under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond,  
8 fountain, stream, organized athletics area or designated children's play area. The Superintendent may  
9 ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she  
10 determines the same may be a nuisance.

11 ~~B. A pilot off-leash program shall be established under the administration of Seattle Animal~~  
12 ~~Control, a subdivision of the Department of the Executive Services Department (Exhibit H, attached to~~  
13 ~~Ordinance 118099 and on file in the city clerk's office). During a twelve (12) month period beginning~~  
14 ~~thirty (30) days from the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section, but not before~~  
15 ~~installation of required kiosks, signage and fencing, where applicable, and for an additional ninety (90)~~  
16 ~~days ending September 22, 1997, with certain modifications described below, d )) Dogs may be allowed~~  
17 ~~to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas:~~

- 18 1. That portion of Genesee Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((A)) H;  
19 2 That portion of Golden Gardens Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((B)) I;  
20 ((3. That portion of Lower Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 C;))

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1 ((4-)) 3. That portion of Magnuson Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 ((D)) L until title to that  
2 portion of the Navy property at Sand Point intended for Parks and Recreation purposes  
3 is transferred to the City and the Use Plan for that portion of the property has been  
4 completed and adopted;

5 ((5-)) 4. That portion of Volunteer Park depicted on revised Exhibit 18.12.080((E)) K until  
6 September 23, 1998, or another area in the Capitol Hill area is substituted, whichever is  
7 sooner;

8 ((6-)) 5. That portion of Westcrest Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080((F)) L (and)

9 ((7-)) 6. That portion of the City's storm-water drainage-retention facility adjacent to I-90 Lid  
10 Park as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080((G)) M;

11 7. That portion of Woodland Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 N: provided that this site  
12 may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
13 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;

14 8. That portion of City Light Right of Way #2 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 O: provided that  
15 this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
16 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed;

17 9. That portion of City Light Right of Way #3 depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 P: provided that  
18 this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a  
19 stewardship agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

20 10. That portion of the East Duwamish Greenbelt depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 Q: provided  
21 that this site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a  
22 stewardship agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

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1 11. That portion of Northacres Park depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 B provided that this site  
2 may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
3 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

4 12. That portion of Jefferson Park Reservoir depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 S: provided that this  
5 site may not be used as an off-leash area until the Superintendent has filed a stewardship  
6 agreement concerning the site with the City Clerk and until signs are installed.

7 ((For the period of the ninety (90) day extension, Area No. 5 (Volunteer Park), above, is  
8 modified as depicted on Exhibit 18.12.080 E and the off-leash area remaining in Area No. 5 shall be  
9 open only from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.))

10 Any person who takes a dog into an off-leash area must have physical control of the dog by  
11 means of an adequate leash when entering and leaving the off-leash area and must maintain voice  
12 control over the dog at all times while in the off-leash area. All dogs in an off-leash area must be  
13 licensed and must display valid license tags attached to the dog collar. Vicious animals, as defined in  
14 Section 9.25.024 A of this Code, are not permitted to use the off-leash areas.

15 C. Any person with a dog or other pet in his or her possession or under his or her control in any  
16 park shall be responsible and liable for the conduct of the animal, shall carry equipment for removing  
17 feces, and shall place feces deposited by such animal in an appropriate receptacle.

18 D. The Superintendent shall review the impacts of off-leash activities at sites seven (7) through  
19 twelve (12) after one year of operations at each site. In the case of non-park sites, this review shall  
20 include consultation with the City Department with authority over the site. If, based on this review, the  
21 Superintendent finds significant problems that can not be practically corrected, the Superintendent may  
22 close the site to off-leash use. In addition to any action taken pursuant to the review described above,

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1 ((F))the Superintendent is authorized to close to off-leash dog use any area described under subsection B  
2 on a temporary or permanent basis if significant problems arise which cannot be resolved jointly by the  
3 Department of Parks and Recreation and Seattle Animal Control and if the Superintendent determines  
4 that such closure is necessary for the preservation and protection of the natural environment, public  
5 health or safety. Prior to closing any off-leash area, the Superintendent shall consult with the Director of  
6 the Executive Services Department ((of Finance)). The Superintendent shall state in writing his other  
7 reasons for closure.

8 Moreover, the Superintendent is authorized to manage all off-leash sites and this authority shall  
9 include, but not be limited to, the authority to make minor alterations to site boundaries after reasonable  
10 notice to the public, impose operating hours and curtail use at sites as necessary for renovation, repair  
11 or for other operational reasons.

12 Section 4. Use, prior to the effective date of this ordinance, of any off-leash area in a manner  
13 that was lawful prior to September 22, 1997 is hereby ratified and confirmed.

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TIME AND DATE STAMP

**SPONSORSHIP**

THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT IS SPONSORED FOR FILING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL BY  
THE MEMBER(S) OF THE CITY COUNCIL WHOSE SIGNATURE(S) ARE SHOWN BELOW:

*Jan Deegan*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT USE ONLY**

COMMITTEE(S) REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

C. S. 20.28

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# City of Seattle

Norman B. Rice, Mayor

Executive Department - Office of Management and Planning  
Judy Bunnell, Director

September 3, 1997

The Honorable Mark Sidran  
City Attorney  
City of Seattle

Dear Mr. Sidran:

The Mayor is proposing to the City Council that the enclosed legislation be adopted.

REQUESTING  
DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE relating to parks and recreation and animal control; amending Sections 9.25.084 and 18.12.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code to allow off leash dogs in specified areas.

Pursuant to the City Council's S.O.P. 100-014, the Executive Department is forwarding this request for legislation to your office for review and drafting.

After reviewing this request and any necessary redrafting of the enclosed legislation, return the legislation to OMP. Any specific questions regarding the legislation can be directed to Kris Castleman 684-8367.

Sincerely,

Norman B. Rice  
Mayor

by

*Kris Castleman for*

JUDY BUNNELL  
Director

h:\admin\legis\law\lrs\castle7

Enclosure

OK  
B. Glynn  
9/4/97 9:50 AM

97 SEP -3 PM 4:51

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Seattle Municipal Building, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1826  
Tel: (206) 684-8080, TDD (206) 684-8118, FAX: (206) 233-0085

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON - KING COUNTY**

85545  
City of Seattle, City Clerk

—ss.

No. ORDINANCE IN

**Affidavit of Publication**

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:ORD 118724

was published on

10/08/97

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ , which amount has been paid in full.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

10/08/97

Notary Public for the State of Washington,  
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication

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